

the chronicle

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Work aims to save subway from flooding

Improvement works are set to be carried out at a Halesowen subway in an attempt to stop it from flooding. The project at the Queensway subway will also see pedestrian safety improvements being carried out.

Work is being carried out jointly by Dudley Council and the Environment Agency and will cost at least £50,000. It is hoped the scheme will get under way early next year. Details are contained with a capital programme report which will go before Dudley Council's cabinet.

It states: "The subway under the Queensway, Halesowen, is an important pedestrian access into the town centre but is situated alongside the River Stour which in 2007 and 2008 burst its banks causing severe flooding, particularly to (nearby) Grange Crescent.

"The recent flood studies report by the Environment Agency identified one area requiring additional flood protection at the town-side entrance/exit ramp where it links with Great Cornbow.

"There has also been a long-standing concern over the blind spot in this ramp, and plans have been prepared to alter the footpath arrangement to improve visibility and encourage use of the subway by partially removing pedestrian concerns.

"It has been agreed with the Environment Agency that it would be in our best interest to combine these schemes and work in partnership, thus enabling works on the flood protection scheme to be carried out to fit in with other works and enable savings by the council to be made due to reduced preliminary items and combining work."

Councillors will be told that the Environment Agency is prepared to contribute towards the cost of the council's work which will mean the net cost to the council will be in the region of £50,000 including fees - provided all the work can be completed by the Environment Agency's deadline of the end of next March. Councillor Patrick Harley, said: "The work is expected to go out to tender next month."

30 are chasing every new home

Housing chiefs have been inundated by people making inquiries about new council homes being built in the borough.

Council chiefs say more than 30 bids per property have been made. Work is under way at five sites after the council secured £4.3 million in funding from the Homes and Communities Agency. A total of 72 new council homes are due to be complete early next year. Council bosses say they have already started advertising homes at four of the sites.

The properties are the first council homes to be built in Dudley for almost 20 years.

The sites include a 19-property development on a former council garage site in Wood Road, Lower Gornal. This includes two, three and four bedroom family houses and apartments.

Councillor Adrian Turner, said: "Properties at Norwood Road, Blackthorn Road, Tenacre Lane and Wood Road have been advertised so far and on average each property has received 30-40 eligible bids. The council is checking references of successful applicants."

It was revealed over the summer that those wanting to move into the new houses are being subjected to additional checks. That includes potential householders being visited at home and having to provide references. If the measures prove useful they may be extended to other lettings.

Injured victim taking action against jailed man

KILLER CAR DRIVER SET TO BE SUED

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A getaway driver who killed a motorist and hurt two other people while hurtling through a red light at 50mph while fleeing from a bungled raid on a Black Country store is to be sued for damages despite being an uninsured motorist.

Robert Maxfield, who had committed 71 offences over the previous 11 years and was on licence from prison at the time of the horror smash, is now serving at least four and a half years behind bars.

He will only be considered for release when he is no longer regarded as a danger to the public after being jailed indefinitely at Wolverhampton Crown Court earlier this week.

The 33-year-old from Ernest Road, Dudley was at the wheel of a Subaru Impreza that careered across the junction of Churchbridge Road and Park Street, Oldbury into a Fiat Punto, fatally injuring driver Tauseef Shaikat, of Smethwick, who was to marry on his 25th birthday 48 hours later. Two passengers in the victim's car were also hurt, one seriously.

One of those men, 44-year-old Harbhajan Singh from Smethwick has launched a civil action against Maxfield who was not insured because he was disqualified when the crash happened on June 13. Mr Singh suffered a fractured neck and four months later is still wearing a brace and unable to work.

Collision

He said: "What happened that night is still a blur. It has been very hard to cope with what happened and the aftermath of the collision."

His solicitor Hilary Wetherell added: "Whilst nothing will turn the clock back for Harbhajan who not only suffered the tragic loss of a close friend but was also left with serious injuries, it is important, now that criminal proceedings are concluded, that we pursue civil proceedings."

"In situations such as this, where the defendant driver was not insured, the Motor Insurers Bureau, a fund set up by the motor insurance industry, is able to provide compensation to the innocent victims of road traffic collisions."

"We will now be working with the MIB's solicitors to hopefully agree a settlement."

Maxfield was escaping with two teenagers who minutes earlier had broken into the Co-op shop in Brandhall while he waited outside in the high-powered vehicle, prosecutor Miss Joanne Barker told the court. Judge John Warner jailed Maxfield, banned him from driving for seven years and said: "This was a quite deliberate act with dreadful consequences. You will only be released from prison when you are no longer considered to be a risk to the public."

Best pal - page 2

Heroes on the shortlist



Jasmine Page, aged 13, with school staff Yvonne Talbot, Patrick Quigley and Sue Detheridge

School staff who saved the life of a Black Country teenager after she suffered a heart attack are in the running for a national award.

Yvonne Talbot, Sue Detheridge and Patrick Quigley performed first aid when pupil Jasmine Page collapsed in the corridor at Windsor High School in Halesowen. The trio, who kept the 13-year-old alive for four minutes until paramedics arrived to take over, have been short-listed for a St John Ambulance award.

Jasmine underwent a heart transplant at Birmingham Children's Hospital in January and returned to lessons full-time for the new school year.

Last month the trio were given a Local Hero award from our sister paper for their quick thinking. Jasmine was also honoured with an accolade for her bravery. Now the school first aiders have been nominated for the Guy Evans Award at the St John Ambulance First Aid Awards which will be voted for by the public. They are up against four other nominees from across the country.

Speaking about the award nomination, Mrs Talbot, from Sedgley, said: "We are absolutely thrilled that we have been put forward for this award. First aid is a big priority for us at Windsor High School and Sixth Form, and it is a vital skill for everyone to have."

"Having Jasmine back at school has been a reward in itself, but we were delighted that our first aid knowledge helped be the difference on that day."

The St John awards ceremony will take place in London on November 30. For more information log on to www.sja.org.uk/firstaidawards.

Rider hurled abuse during police chase

A cyclist swerved into oncoming traffic and caused "mayhem" while being chased by a police car and shouting foul abuse at the officers, a court heard.

It was the third time in ten days Ashley Crooks had been in a police confrontation while cycling.

The 24-year-old had been approached by officers in Long Lane, Halesowen who suspected he was breaching terms of his bail.

But he sped off on his bike, narrowly missing women with pushchairs and causing cars to do emergency stops.

After a few minutes he then rode head-on towards the police car and crashed into the bonnet, Dudley magistrates were told.

Nine days earlier on April 8, Crooks, of Olive Lane, Halesowen, was caught riding in a pedestrianised zone in Halesowen High Street and the day before that, he tried to ride away from police in Olive Lane.

Mr Surdip Sidhu, defending, said Crooks, who is unemployed, had felt "harrassed" by police. He did not realise he was not allowed to ride on the town's High Street so became angry.

Crooks pleaded guilty to dangerous cycling, riding a bike on a footpath, using threatening words to cause alarm or distress, two charges of obstructing a police officer, two of using words to cause fear of violence, and one of failing to stop for a police officer.

He was given a 12-month community order, and 100 hours unpaid work.

No decision on freezing tax

All except two councils in the West Midlands have agreed to freeze council tax next year. Dudley council has yet to make a decision.

Councils have been awarded a grant from the government equivalent to a 2.5 per cent council tax increase if they freeze the levy on residents.

Dudley Council leader Les Jones said freezing council tax for one year could mean a bigger increase the year after and said the council was "keeping an open mind" on all options. "We need to get more information from the government," he said. "If it turns out that financial pressures are such that by introducing the freeze next year, we have to increase tax by even more the year after, we may not take on the freeze."

"We would love to freeze it again, but we have to make sure it's in the best long-term interest of the borough." Meanwhile, Wyre Forest District Council is also undecided. A spokesman said that while it was "strongly considering" the freeze it would not make any definite decisions until February.

Councils in Wolverhampton, Walsall and Sandwell have all voted to accept the deal.

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Plan to extend play time

A youth centre which wants to remove time restrictions on outdoor play on Sundays has been given the support of planning officers at Dudley Council.

Council planners have recommended that Greenhill Youth Centre should be allowed to use their site in Long Lane, Halesowen, at any time at the weekend.

A total of 29 people, including a petition with 24 signatures, have objected to the proposal on the grounds of noise and potential traffic and parking problems.

One resident, of Long Lane, said: "The noise generated while the site is in use now can be heard inside a double-glazed house, so this change would mean continuous extra noise all weekend."

Another, of Greenhill Road, added: "Surely we should be allowed one day a week when we can sit in our garden and have peace and quiet. The last thing we need is another day when we are subjected to shouting and bad language."

Two letters of support were also received from residents declaring the noise was "not a problem".

Time limits on Sunday play were originally imposed when the centre was built in 2005. However, centre bosses say the restrictions are "unworkable" as morning matches often overrun. The application is to be discussed by the planning committee.

Puppet time

Puppetry and poetry will explore the culture, sights and language of Lahore and the Punjab at Netherthor Arts Centre in Northfield Road, on November 2.

No sentence will ever bring my best pal back



Ricky Munir

The best friend of Tauseef Shaukat, killed two days before his wedding by banned driver Robert Maxfield, said: "What this man has put us through is indescribable."

Ricky Munir from Great Barr, Birmingham, who had been a close friend of the victim for 14 years and worked with him at the family business Rose Catering, added: "No sentence will ever bring him back."

"We were like brothers and had been out together 24 hours before this happened arranging a holiday. He was so bubbly and easy going. He could get on with anybody. He was getting married to his fiancée of two years on his 25th birthday with a big party planned later. He had so much to live for."

Mr Shaukat, who lived in Mallin Street, Smethwick, died in hospital less than two hours after his Fiat Punto was hit by a getaway car driven through red lights at 50mph by Maxfield who later claimed in a letter: "I hate myself for what I have done. I could not be sorer."

Mr Munir retorted: "There was not a single trace of remorse on the face of that man as he stood in the dock at court being sentenced. You can tell when somebody is truly sorry. They were hollow words."

Fiancee

Mr Shaukat was the eldest of four brothers. His 52-year-old father Shaukat Ali and mother Khutan Akhtar declined to comment as did his 20-year-old fiancée, who asked not to be named.

In a statement they said: "He was a much loved son, brother and friend whose tragic loss we are still trying to come to terms with."

The victim was driving home from a night out with two friends when his car was hit by the speeding Subaru. Friend and passenger Harbhajan Singh, 44, was badly injured in the crash. He fractured his neck and is still in a brace and unable to return to work.

He said: "Although justice has been done, nothing will bring back Tauseef and my heart goes out to his family."

Fair show for opera society

An award-winning amateur operatic society will present the Black Country premiere of Rodgers and Hammerstein's State Fair.

The Cradley Heath Amateur Operatic Society will perform the show at the Civic Hall in Brierley Hill from November 7 to 12.

The society is the longest-established amateur operatic group in the Black Country and celebrated its centenary in 2008.

The production will see a cast of more than 30 showing off their acting, singing and dancing talents in the new stage version of the only film collaboration of the ground-breaking musical composers. Rodgers and Hammerstein's contemporary score includes a host of well-known hits including It's A Grand Night For Singing and the Oscar-winning tune It Might As Well Be Spring.

Shows start at 7.15pm. To secure tickets call the box office on 0121 5857380 or visit the website www.chaosoperatics.co.uk



Liz Woodhouse who plays Margy and Richard Cope who plays Pat Gilbert

Elderly women robbed

Elderly women have been targeted in two separate robberies in the Black Country which detectives think may be linked.

In both cases the victims, aged 72 and 76, were approached by a man before being robbed. An investigation has now been launched.

The first happened at 5pm on October 1 in Enfield Road, Rowley Regis, where a 72-year-old woman was targeted.

The victim, who was using a mobility scooter at the time of the attack, was approached by a man who told her there was a missing child in the area.

When she responded, the man then leaned forward and snatched the gold chains from around her neck. After a brief struggle he ran off in the direction of Bell End. The second attack happened a few days later in nearby Lawrence Lane, Cradley Heath.

A 76-year-old woman had just visited a fish and chip shop, at around 12.30pm on October 5, when a man walked up to her and asked her for the time.

As the victim moved to check her watch the man then grabbed the woman's gold chains from around her neck. Police today urged anyone with information to contact Sandwell CID on 0345 113 5000 or speak to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Poppy night

A Halesowen club will host an evening of entertainment for the Royal British Legion's poppy appeal. It will be at The Laurels, Colley Gate, on November 11 at 7.30pm. All proceeds go to the appeal.

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Historic foundry on heritage 'at risk' list

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Smethwick's historic Soho Foundry, considered to be one of the most important Industrial Revolution sites in the world, has featured in a list of under-threat buildings.

However, it has been named by English Heritage on its annual at risk register. The site in Foundry Lane, was built by Matthew Boulton and James Watt in 1794 for the construction of their revolutionary steam engine. Fears have been raised about the main building, on the Soho Foundry site.

The concern came after council bosses admitted they are struggling to find a use for the empty building. It needs repairs which could cost millions.

Other buildings to feature on the register include Chatterley Whitfield Colliery, Stoke on Trent, the first pit to produce a million tons of coal in a year; Stanley Dock, Liverpool, the Bowes Railway, Tyne and Wear; and Battersea Power Station, London.

English Heritage is bringing out a new set of guidance and £2 million in grants to help owners protect vacant historic buildings until uses can be found for them.

Rescue

There will also be help for heritage rescue groups which could be the answer for the 60 per cent of buildings which cannot be reused, typically because they have historic machinery or the remains of mining operations. The group will part-fund a support officer to help trusts and groups who run sites as visitor attractions.

It will also carry out at least 25 projects over the next few years to look at particular parts of industrial heritage. But it was unclear if the Soho Foundry would benefit.

Laura Wilks, of Avery Weigh-Tronix which owns the foundry, said: "Avery Weigh-Tronix has been based on the Soho Foundry site for more than 100 years.

"As a company that is proud of our heritage, we recognise the importance of Soho Foundry."

Stores in charity match



Daniel Perry and Martin Taylor before the charity match between Asda staff in Dudley and Halesowen

Staff from two Black Country supermarkets have netted some cash for local charities thanks to a football match.

Workers from Asda Merry Hill took on their counterparts at Asda in Halesowen in a charity football match at The Dell Stadium in Brierley Hill. Merry Hill won 6-1. It is hoped the event has raised about £300 each for the Russells Hall Hospital Special Care Baby unit and the Tickled Pink cancer charity run by Asda. Members of the Pedmore Panthers cheerleaders squad performed for free while staff from the Dell Stadium offered their time for free to help with the event. Organiser Lee Batham said: "It went very well. There was almost 230 people through the gates."



Soho Foundry - on the at risk register

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Centre parking fees 'would be a disaster'

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Parking charges at the Merry Hill Shopping Centre would spell disaster for the region's economy, driving shoppers elsewhere, campaigners have warned.

The free parking at the Brierley Hill centre could be withdrawn in as little as two years under council-imposed restrictions which mean the centre cannot expand unless charges are introduced.

Critics say shoppers often travel from further afield attracted by the unlimited free parking – but this custom could be lost if the incentive is removed. Dudley South MP Chris Kelly has spoken out about the proposals, and said he will be meeting with senior managers at the Westfield-owned mall and bosses at the company headquarters in London in the hope of finding a way around the restrictions.

"I am opposed, on principle, to the introduction of parking charges at the Merry Hill and will be taking the matter up with Westfield's management," he said.

"This has included site visits and also a meeting at their UK head office in London."

Discourage

Brierley Hill ward councillor Rachel Harris has also voiced concerns, calling on the council to rethink the demands.

"I don't think anything which might discourage shoppers from coming along to spend, in this economy, is a very good idea," she said.

"The economy has changed since the time the decision was made, and I don't think anyone anticipated we would be facing the kind of global and local recession that we are in now." She said one of her primary fears for local people concerned potential issues with people clogging surrounding streets to park for free.

"It's bad enough as it is at the moment, especially around Christmas when the car parks get full and people spill over," she said.

"There are some people who will not pay to park – and if it's this bad when the centre offers free parking, I dread to think how it will be if charges are introduced."

Centre bosses revealed last month that talks had begun on multi-million pound expansion plans.

Deputy council leader Tim Wright said the council had developed the policy alongside other Black Country councils.

"As set out in the Black Country joint core strategy, a condition of any significant extra retail space is that the owners would need to implement a car parking charging system similar to comparable centres," he said.

History is sculpted in



The sculptures, which honour the history of nailmaking are on display by the Travelodge Hotel, Halesowen

A Black Country artist has created steel artwork for a new £2.6 million hotel to celebrate the area's nailmaking heritage – the main industry in the area in the 19th century.

Luke Perry's four pieces will take pride of place outside the five-storey Travelodge in Halesowen on the A458 – a main route between Stourbridge and Birmingham – where they will be seen by thousands of commuters.

The panels have been put up above four archway entrances to the development, which also includes a KFC drive-thru and is due to open next month.

Mr Perry, of Cradley Heath, was commissioned by bosses

who wanted the modern building to have historical links.

The pieces, made of shapes of 16mm steel, depict scenes including a nailmaker at work and a set of tools.

They feature quotes from American 19th century writer Ellihu Burritt's book Walks in the Black Country and its Green Borderland, a document of his tour around the region's industrial hubs.

Mr Perry, aged 27, said: "Some of the language is really poetic and contrasts well with the images."

"Not many people have heard of him but he was the first person to use the term "Black Country" in print."

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Man jailed for metal theft raid on school

A former scrap dealer with a drinking problem has been jailed for breaking into a school to steal metal to fund his boozing.

Wayne Hales, aged 29, was one of a group of men who targeted St Michael's School, Rowley Regis in an early morning raid. The raid caused £10,000 damage to the school – with electrical cables left hanging from the ceiling. There were also gaps where piping had been torn out and insulation was left strewn across the floor.

Hales, formerly of Warner Road, Wednesbury, was last week jailed for 16 weeks while two others, Duncan Priest and Jason Ford, both from Dudley, received community sentences.

Sandwell Magistrates Court heard a police helicopter was deployed to the school between 1.45am and 1.50am on August 3 after residents called 999 to say they could see torch lights and hear the sound of metal being cut at the Curral Road school.

Cameras

Using heat-seeking cameras, police found the three defendants hiding behind a bush. Hales, was found with a small bag of cannabis while Priest was found with a torch and keys to a Citroen van parked nearby. Police also recovered two bags containing tools and torches.

The court heard Hales, who had pleaded guilty to burglary with intent to steal and possession of a class B drug at an earlier hearing, had a number of previous convictions – the last being for dishonesty in 2008. Mr Ranjit Sandhu, defending, said: "In the past he has had issues with drink and this was to finance his habit."

Ford, 39, of Gill Street in Netherton, and Priest, 41, of Darby End Road, both admitted burglary with intent to steal. Chairman of the bench Ian Collett told Hales: "Because of your extensive record of dishonesty, only custody is appropriate." Both Ford and Priest received 12 month community orders and were each ordered to pay £85 costs. Priest was ordered to do 120 hours unpaid work.

Belly good idea for charity



From left, Mary Parkes, Gloria Priest, Maureen Hill and Diane Gibbons get ready for their belly dancing fundraiser in Halesowen

A belly dancing group in Halesowen is hoping to shimmy up funds for charity during a special performance.

The group, which has been meeting for three years, will be fundraising for the Macular Disease (MD) Society at the Halesowen Members Club, Hagley Road, on November 4, from 7pm.

MD causes the loss of central vision and as the only UK charity to help sufferers the society works to build independence and help

people cope with the biggest cause of sight loss in the country. Organiser Linda Ellis has been belly dancing for six years and is also the leader of a support group for people affected by MD in Dudley.

"There will be a lot of dancing on the evening and I will also be giving a talk about MD."

There will also be a raffle with a commissioned painting by local artist Bryan Connor up for grabs.

Tickets are £2.50 and available from Linda on 07976613288.

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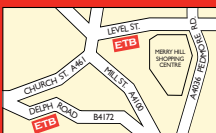
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thechronicle

Ambulance hub work started

Work on a new ambulance hub in Dudley that will stock, service and clean a fleet of vehicles is now underway, health chiefs have confirmed.

The centre is being built on the site of the current ambulance station in Burton Road.

It is part of a £7 million shake-up of the service which will see up to 13 ambulance stations across the Black Country close and replaced with 29 "community" centres and two major hubs - one in Dudley which will serve

areas including Stourbridge, Kingswinford, Oldbury and Halesowen and the other in Willenhall to serve the north of the Black Country.

The vehicles will be cleaned, repaired and stored at the hub before and after paramedics take them out on their shifts at community ambulance stations across the Black Country. West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Chris Kowalik said work has started on the Dudley site and if all goes to schedule it

should be completed by Christmas. Work is taking place around the current building and the first phase will concentrate on rebuilding areas including the crew restrooms and offices to meet infection prevention control measures which the service is obliged to introduce.

Later the project will move to overhauling the workshops on the site. The Dudley hub will also move to become a 24/7 operation as a result of the changes.

Inquest on driver, 47, with tumour

A bus driver died from a cancerous tumour days after being admitted to hospital with shortness of breath, an inquest heard.

Doctors did not realise the tumour had been growing in 47-year-old Mark Simon's bowel for months.

The hearing at Dudley Coroners Court was told Mr Simon's 19st weight and fluid that had built up around his abdomen made it difficult to identify the "mass".

His partner, Tanya Priest, said he had told his GP he suffered bleeding from his bowels in the weeks leading up to his death.

But when he was admitted to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital on July 29, doctors originally thought the problems in his abdomen were "a separate issue".

Mr Simon, of Albert Street, Stourbridge, suffered a fatal cardiac arrest on August 10.

It was only discovered that Mr Simon had non-Hodgkins lymphoma during a post mortem.

Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain recorded a verdict that Mr Simon died of natural causes.

Canine colour coding collared

An inventor from South Staffordshire is celebrating after his product warning people about the behaviour of dogs was launched in shops.

David Daly, who also runs the tea shop at Baggesbury Country Park, has invented an "awareness behaviour sleeve", which warns of an animal's temperament.

He says if a dog is not very friendly, the owner can attach a red sleeve to the collar and lead which says danger.

"If the dog has just been to the vets or doesn't like other animals, a yellow sleeve can be worn for caution."

But the yellow can also be reversed to reveal a green message that means the dog is friendly but "ask before stroking".

Mr Daly, aged 40, from Swindon, said: "I invented it in November last year when my two daughters got snapped at by a dog."

He has sold close to 360.



Paul Howard, whose dog, Lexi, wears the green colour-coded sleeve and inventor Dave Daly, whose dog Ship wears the yellow warning version

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Motorists targeted over illegal rat-run

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New traffic surveys are to be carried out near an illegal rat-run in Dudley used by up to 6,000 commuters a day as part of a bid to clear the car-clogged street.

People living in Blackacre Road have been complaining to police and Dudley Council for years about motorists using the street. Drivers were banned from the road except to access homes in 2002, but motorists have been flouting the order.

Plans were drafted this year to solve the problem by turning two roads into cul-de-sacs and making another one-way.

However, council chiefs declared no work would be carried out until further investigations could take place.

They decided they wanted to look at the traffic in the surrounding areas before making a final decision on what work to carry out and it was difficult to do that while long-running roadworks at the nearby Burnt Tree Island junction, which finished earlier this year, were being carried out.

Now council bosses have revealed they hope to complete the traffic surveys before the end of this year.

Difficult

Councillor Patrick Harley, said: "There are issues associated with through traffic along Blackacre Road and in the surrounding areas that were difficult to assess while work continued at Burnt Tree junction.

"Now that work at Burnt Tree is complete, surveys will be carried out and are likely to be completed by the start of December. These results will then need to be analysed before anything can be put forward for public consideration."

The proposal put forward earlier this year was to close Blackacre Road between Shedden Street and Dando Road and make Paradise one-way towards Douglas Road.

The council also planned to turn Shedden Street into a cul-de-sac.

The aim was to cut the amount of traffic using Blackacre Road after a survey revealed 500 vehicles used the route in a weekday peak hour. But residents living in nearby Rollason Road and Douglas Road claimed it will simply shift the problem with through traffic using their streets, making lives a misery.

Cool food dudes at school



Front, Nadine Smith, and Bradley Probert, with fellow pupils and, back left to right, Sarah Abbiss, school Food Dudes co-ordinator, NHS Dudley MD Steve Cartwright, Ruth Wylie, Valerie Little, and Maxine Sharps of Food Dudes

A new scheme being rolled out in several schools in Dudley to get children to eat more fruit and vegetables.

The Food Dudes project helps educate children on healthy foods and tries to change eating habits from an early age.

Bosses at NHS Dudley's public health team say six schools have signed up to the new programme this term. Wrens Nest Primary School, Dudley, is among the first to help children "train their taste buds" with fun activities.

Up to 4,200 local children at primary and special schools will

take part in the scheme in Dudley in each of the next three years.

NHS Dudley director of public health Valerie Little said: "Eating habits are established in early life and a poor diet in childhood can lead to ill-health when people grow up."

Wrens Nest Headteacher Ruth Wylie added: "This is a great opportunity to encourage children to eat fruit and vegetables. Our children have loved taking part. Eating fruit and vegetables with the Food Dudes is definitely cool at Wrens Nest."

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Bonfire destroyed by jobs

Arsonists set alight a pile of wood and pallets that had been collected for an upcoming bonfire at a Black Country cricket club.

The 12ft high mound was destroyed by the time firefighters doused the flames at Halesowen Cricket Club.

Jobs had climbed over a fence into the Grange Road grounds and a neighbour

raised the alarm when he saw the blaze at about 3am. Organisers had spent two weeks gathering the wood from local firms.

Club vice-chairman Chris Bissell said he hoped the event, which is the club's biggest fundraiser of the year, would still go ahead on November 5.

"This has never happened during my 15 years at the club," he said.

Robert starts battle for new pair of legs

A man who lost his limbs through meningitis says he feels "let down" by the NHS after being refused funding for a new pair of prosthetic legs.

Robert Parsons, aged 29, has recently managed to start walking for the first time since his illness but says his current legs are unstable.

He has fallen over and injured himself several times and applied for new legs with special knee joints to help him walk

around. But his request has been turned down by NHS Dudley, as he is not seen as an "exceptional case".

Mr Parsons was 19, and previously healthy, when he had the amputations after contracting blood poisoning through a complication of meningitis.

He says he will pay a proportion of the costs for the £50,000 pair of legs using cash from a charity fund set up by his former boss, local philanthropist Geoff Hill.

Mr Parsons, of Shenstone Avenue, Norton, Stourbridge, was a delivery driver for Mr Hill's electrical firm when he was struck down by the illness in 2000.

Thousands of pounds were raised in weeks from donations by the public - and that has been used to kit out Mr Parsons' home and buy him a specially adapted car.

Milestone

In the last 11 years he has battled to improve his mobility and reached a milestone in January by managing to walk around for long periods.

But he has struggled to walk up kerbs and on uneven surfaces, which has left him "embarrassed" when he has fallen over.

He said: "I'm lucky that I have this money to fall back on. If it wasn't for Geoff's fund I would be stuck in my wheelchair. I just feel let down by the NHS."

Mr Parsons is now launching an appeal against the decision.

Hilary Walker, director of quality at NHS Dudley said: "It would be inappropriate for me to comment on this individual case in detail however, I am confident the process is fair and robust, ensuring that cases are considered in a consistent way and that decisions are made on clinical and cost effectiveness."



Robert Parsons with the letter

An award for college Caravan is stolen

Halesowen College has received an award recognising its work providing students with careers advice.

The college's Careers and Higher Education Centre has been awarded a BCQA - Black Country Quality Award - Gold Award for its work.

The accolade looks at standards in careers education, information, advice and guidance with support from Connexions.

Inspectors visited the college to monitor the career education, individual guidance and support available, as well as the centre's work with parents and carers, equality and diversity and young people.

Halloween charity bash

A Halloween dance is being held on Saturday by the Halesowen branch of the Mary Stevens Hospice fundraising group. It will feature ballroom and sequence dancing to the music of Stephen Gill. The venue for the event is Lutley Community Centre, Brookwillow Road. It starts at 7.30pm and tickets are £5 which includes a light supper. All proceeds go to the Stourbridge hospice.

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More midwives are taken on

Five extra midwives have been recruited by health chiefs at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital as birth rates continue to soar.

New figures show there have been 2,566 births at the hospital between April and September this year.

Just over 4,900 were recorded in the financial year 2010/11 up from 3,777 in 2002/2003.

The closure of Sandwell Hospital's maternity unit, ahead of the opening of a new midwife-led birthing centre in Smethwick, is one of the reasons for the increase in babies born at Russells Hall. Plans have also been in the pipeline to cap the number of births at the hospital to "maintain safe operating levels" but bosses say they are

now considering options to increase capacity at the site instead.

Figures released by The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust show 414 births were recorded in April, 421 in May, 444 in June, 438 in July, 421 in August and 428 in September.

Increase

Chief executive of The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Paula Clark said: "Our maternity unit continues to be a popular choice for mums-to-be and, with the closure of Sandwell Maternity Unit and birth rates continuing to increase, we are still seeing an increased number of women choosing

to have their babies at Russells Hall Hospital. "We have invested in the employment of more midwives and recently recruited a further five who are due to start soon.

"We are looking into the feasibility of increasing capacity within the maternity department to meet the increase in demand."

The hospital currently has in the region of 175 midwives.

Figures released earlier this year showed 28 per cent of all women applying to have their baby in Dudley are now from Sandwell.

In the last three months of 2010/11 there was an increase of 69.7 per cent in bookings from Sandwell women on the same period in 2009/10.

Plans for market are restricted

A popular Black Country street market will be extended - but the plans have been scaled back after complaints that local shops could be hit.

Halesowen's farmers and craft market will be allowed an extra 10 stalls by Dudley Council licensing chiefs.

But they rejected an application to hold the market in the town centre every week.

The farmers' market runs on alternate Saturdays throughout the year and is very restricted as to the types of goods which can be sold.

The council's licensing committee heard that the Victorian Street Fair or the Christmas Market could be hit if a larger market took place every Saturday.

The committee said they would review the situation in six months.

Market boss Dermot McGillicuddy said later: "This was a positive decision and it will go a long way to improving what the market has to offer."

Pub in spirit to get pedalling

Fundraisers at a Black Country pub will clock up more than 900 miles on an exercise bike to bring in cash for two charities.

Regulars at the Jolly Crispin, Clarence Street, Upper Gornal, will stage the cycling challenge over the next two weeks with the aim of raising nearly £1,000.

It will be split between Sedgley's Beacon Centre for the Blind and the Help for Heroes charity, which supports servicemen and women injured in conflicts.

People taking part in the competition have signed up to complete a certain number of miles on the exercise bike. Between them they aim to cover the distance between Lands End and John o' Groats, around 985 miles. They need to be sponsored £1 for every mile they complete.

The competition got under way last week with Karen Gullick, from the Beacon Centre, among the first to get on the bike and complete her part of the event.

She cycled 20 miles which was then marked out on a map at the pub to chart the route between Land's End and John O' Groats.



Jolly Crispin landlady Tracey Carey and Karen Gullick, from Sedgley's Beacon Centre for the Blind, get ready for the fundraising 900-mile cycling challenge

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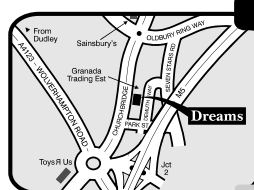
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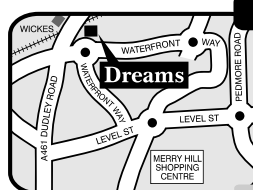
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thechronicle

History shows long wait for town to get its independence

Halesowen had waited hundreds of years to gain independent status in local government and at last they achieved it in 1894.

As a manor, the place had been dominated from the early 13th century by the abbots of Halesowen Abbey. About 1270 King Henry III had granted them a "licence to make a borough of Hales with all liberties and free customs appertaining to boroughs".

Like other lords of agricultural manors, the abbot was keen to increase his income by renting out building plots to burgesses and to encourage the growth of a new borough.

He also charged newcomers for the rights to trade locally and set up a court that could levy fines on those who contravened the rules laid down by the abbot.

Unfortunately neither the abbot nor his successors were keen on allowing the burgesses the freedom to determine their own affairs. They maintained their control until all religious bodies were dissolved under Henry VIII, after which local power came to be vested in the Lyttelton family.

Such domination meant the extensive parish of Halesowen was unable to gain recognition nationally and in 1834 it was drawn into the Poor Law Union of its nearby rival, Stourbridge - along with Cakemore, Cradley, Hasbury, Hawne, Hill, Illey, Lapal, Lutley, and Ridgeacre (Quinton).

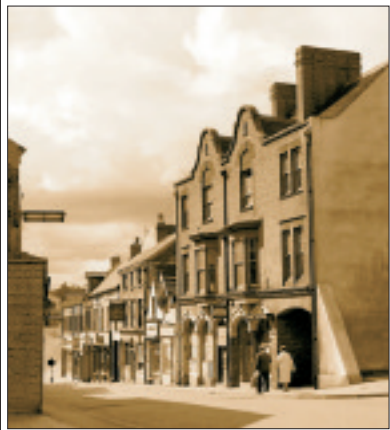
From the later 1870s Stourbridge became an urban sanitary authority, whilst Halesowen was subsumed into the Stourbridge Rural Sanitary Authority. Halesowen and its hamlets seemed doomed to remain under the rule of another authority but finally and proudly it reasserted its distinctiveness in 1894 when the Halesowen Rural District Council was formed.

Its first chairman was Walter Somers of the famous heavy forgings firm. Three years later The Lye and Wollescote was lost and in 1910 Quinton joined Birmingham, but for all that Halesowen now had a position on the lowest rung of English local government. It could only go up - and it did.

In 1924 Halesowen became an urban district council with seven wards, 15 councillors, and public offices in Great Cornbow.

Magnificent

Eleven years later the council transferred its offices to a large house along the street and behind which they built a magnificent central library and council chamber (sadly knocked down in 1978).



Photographer Phil Waldren captured this view of High Street along with all the other images

With its police stations and schools run by Worcester-shire County Council, Halesowen's councillors still acted vigorously on behalf of their citizens. Under various housing acts, the authority built more than 1,000 municipal houses and subsidised several hundred private dwellings during the inter-war years. This was a remarkable total for a small authority, which further showed its dynamism by the purchase of the Leasowes Estate in 1934 - part of which was leased as a golf course and the rest of which became an outstanding public park.

Halesowen won the coveted status of a borough in 1936. Now boasting a charter, 18 councillors in five wards, and a mayor, the new body built more than 900 houses before the start of the Second World War and ordered the demolition of more than 400 properties.

After the war, the council developed estates on Hasbury Farm, Fatherless Barn, and Hasbury Grange and set about transforming the town centre. These changes were implemented as part of an ambitious civic plan that entailed the removal of the majority of the existing properties in and around Little Cornbow and Birmingham Street. With hindsight, some of them should have been kept. The future look of the town was trumpeted loudly with the demolition of the Church House Steps in 1963. This was followed by the



Halesowen Church and the ramshackle backs of houses half a century ago

emergence of a new road called the Queensway.

Within its circle, a shopping centre called The Precinct was opened in November 1967. Just outside the new road, the Highfield Flats were completed in 1964. Despite its proactive approach, Halesowen's independence was under threat. In 1960 the Local Government Commission reported on the West Midlands Special Review Area. Controversially it was proposed that Halesowen should join Oldbury and Rowley Regis in becoming part of the Smethwick County Borough.

There was a furious reaction and an independence campaign was launched. One of the most notable figures against amalgamation was Cliff Willetts.

The first Labour mayor of the borough and a highly-respected figure from Cradley, he went against his party's wishes. Backed by massive popular support, Halesowen's distinct identity was maintained and the reorganisation plans defeated.

Both the Labour and Conservative Governments of the 1960s and early 1970s were enthralled by the misguided belief that bigger was better and at last, in 1974, they extinguished the independence of many local authorities.

Halesowen was amongst them. It was forced to join the new Dudley County Borough along with Stourbridge, which had been a borough since 1914.

The loss of independence had been preceded by a loss of many historic buildings, but fortunately old Halesowen was captured by a most talented photographer, Phil Waldren.

Phil has lived in Halesowen for most of his life, but he came to the town in the mid-1950s as a young man and as an outsider. Raised in Birmingham, he saw Halesowen with fresh eyes - a feature that informed the photographs he took of the town.

Phil recalls his first camera was from Galloways Corner, New Street, Birmingham, in 1949.

Shutter

It was a very basic folding roll film job, which gave eight 3½ x 2½ inch negatives on 120 roll film - or would do, if all went well. There were only two shutter speeds, 'B' and 'T'.

"In 1954 we moved from Quinton to Halesowen, which at the time was a Borough in the County of Worcestershire and had its own Mayor and Corporation. We didn't know the town, so the place was new to us. There was everything there almost as it was one hundred years ago, dominated of course by the church."

"Other facilities consisted of a market, a library, a railway station, two banks, (Lloyds and the Midland) various shops such as Parkes' the printers, Wrenson's, the Co-op, Hobbs' Hardware, Dancer's Ladies and Gents Out-fitters (still there!) and many more. In fact, the town could supply most things that one would require. There were no supermarkets, charity shops or estate agents."

"Usually on a Sunday morning, whilst my wife, Pauline, was cooking lunch, I walked around the town and took a few photographs (I wish I'd have taken a lot more). Sunday was a very quiet day (only the newspaper shops in the town were open and the pubs didn't open until midday and closed at two) so the pictures show very few people."

"Abandoning the darkroom for the computer some eight years ago was a big change, but one that has been a new beginning for me."

"It's like starting all over again, reliving all the excitement and thrills that I experienced all those years ago in the 1950s. With digital photography it is possible to record in an affordable way, every aspect of our environment and daily life. Such pictures will, in fifty or one hundred years' time, be regarded as 'our history'. So it's over to you!"



Hagley Street frozen in the 1950s with a characteristic Woodbine cigarettes advert dominating the left corner



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£90,000 revamp in village to be altered

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A £900,000 revamp of Kinver High Street will be altered after it sparked hundreds of complaints from residents and traders.

Council bosses have agreed to change parts of the road layout after villagers said it was too confusing for drivers.

They claimed the new look High Street – which had been revamped to solve traffic problems – had also stopped people from visiting the village causing trade to plummet.

More than 250 householders sent in their views on the redevelopment work, which was completed earlier this year and included chicanes and double yellow lines. Now some of the chicanes installed at the Dunsley Road and Stone Lane ends of the High Street will be removed. While clear right of way signs will also be put up so drivers know who has priority when travelling along the street.

Staffordshire County Council is expected to start work on the alterations at the beginning of next month. It is not yet known how much the alterations will cost.

Desperately

Trader Sarah Jolly, of the Butchery, High Street, said she hoped the latest work would help to bring trade back to the village.

"Unfortunately people have got into the habit of not coming into the village now and we desperately need to get them back.

"I am also worried what the effect will be if the road has to be closed off at any point for these new changes to be made as that will only cause further disruption.

"If these changes had not been made in the first place then we would not have gone through all this.

"We were told officers were monitoring the village for five years before this scheme was carried out but I just cannot see how this can be the case."

Officers from the county council discussed the work at a recent meeting with the parish council, which had collected all of the comments from people in the village.

Many residents criticised the chicanes along the road and said if they were to remain more clear priorities were needed to ensure drivers knew who had right of way.

Villagers have complained the changes have caused traffic problems rather than solving them.

Staffordshire county councillor Brian Edwards said today: "A meeting has now taken place where the problems were discussed and action will be taken."

Council officers have also agreed to look at improving the access to the White Hart and Acre car parks after residents complained there was little room to manoeuvre. Parish council clerk Jenny Spaul added: "It is hoped these works will take place early next month."

Star Adrian drops by



Adrian Chiles, with clockwise from left, Aaron Randle, student council co-ordinator Gail Hickman, Matthew McDonald and Daniel Carter at the college autumn fair

TV presenter Adrian Chiles returned to his Midland roots to visit an autumn fair at a Stourbridge college. The Day-break star, from Hagley, visited the Glasshouse College in Amblescote where he was called upon to judge a pumpkin carving competition. He spent around an hour with youngsters looking at work they have produced in crafts such as weaving, bronze casting, glass work and jewellery.

He was also shown produce from the college's organic farm. He presented 20-year-old Daniel Carter, the winner of the pumpkin carving competition, with a glass pumpkin made by tutors at the college.

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

The Hasbury Inn

A Refreshing Welcome for the Whole Family



If you are looking for a pub that serves excellent quality food, with a welcome for families large or small, then you need look no further than the Hasbury Inn on the Hagley Road in Halesowen. The totem that bears the pub name shows a beehive with bees buzzing industriously around the hive mirroring the attentiveness and energy that has been injected into this landmark Pub.

There is a vitality and buzz in the place that is so sadly lacking in so many establishments, they want to please you and set about exceeding your needs as soon as you enter. The pub has been under new management for the last 3 weeks and has already established itself with a refreshing approach to total customer care that other establishments will soon come to envy. It is no surprise as the team who run the restaurant operation are old hands at the pub

game, bristling with academic and practical achievements the team clearly have catering in their DNA.

The food is traditional British Fayre with a hint of continental influence by the surprising aspect of the menu is the right hand column, that being the prices. You would struggle to find Fish and chips, or Scampi and Chips for £1.99 anywhere in Halesowen, but at the Hasbury Inn you can get either between Wednesday and Saturday this week. Even more surprising is the quality you can expect, sourcing good produce is the cornerstone of any catering operation and the boys seem to have all the right contacts when it comes to the raw ingredients. If you happen to frequent the place on a Friday you are in for a real treat as Friday night is Curry Night at the Hasbury Inn. There is an all you can eat option for just £4.99 for adults and £3.99 for children under 14, available from 12 noon until late. The rest of the menu boasts a range of mouth watering breakfasts, including a DIY build your own breakfast sandwich or a range of delicious toasties. Coming soon will be a range of cooked to order omelettes with a selection of fresh

ingredients. The usual contenders are also available including Chilli Con Carne, Lasagne, and Chicken Carbonara as well as a full range of curries from Korma to Vindaloo and even an exotic Thai Prawn Curry for the more adventurous.

The Sunday carvery has been particularly successful drawing customers from all over the region. This is no surprise really as the menu on offer is outstanding, not just 3 or 4 meat options but a staggering 5 varieties of roast, including beef, turkey, pork, gammon and lamb on offer, all with the usual accompaniments of Yorkshire puddings, stuffing, potatoes, gravy and a huge selection of fresh vegetables, and the price - just £3.99 a head. How do they do it?

It is rare these days to find a place where children are as welcome as adults, but this is definitely the case at the Hasbury, a large beer garden with dedicated play equipment is available meaning that families can relax and enjoy the surrounding together. The family theme is continued this coming weekend as the pub is holding a 'Monster Ball' for Halloween. The Fancy Dress 'spook-tacular' is being held this Saturday; prizes are on

offer for the best childrens' fancy dress costume, and there are no tricks, just treats!

I can only congratulate the team at the Hasbury Inn, the team have performed miracles to develop their plan to open a family friendly pub that consistently meets its customers' needs. They are constantly striving to deliver a dining experience where the food speaks for itself, quality, value and service are at the heart of the operation and customer satisfaction is the focal point of the entire team at the Hasbury Inn, and that is why it is quickly becoming a destination pub that attracts its customers from all over the region. It is simply a classic case of pure excellence.



The Hasbury Inn

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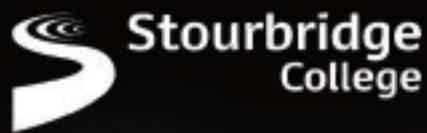
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thechronicle

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Students on course for an exciting future

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

If you're in your last year at school, have you thought about where you're going or how far you want to go when you leave? Stourbridge College offers a range of exciting vocational, apprenticeship and academic courses that will make sure you're heading in the right direction.

If you want to get straight into work we can help you gain valuable employability skills to help you get a job, or if you've set your sights on university we've got a range of A-level and vocational courses that will help you do the honours.

Secure

We've also got lots to offer in construction and the built environment that will help you build solid foundations in the construction trades, a brand new art and design centre to help you picture a future in creative industries and a football and hospitality academy in Kidderminster.

Stourbridge College is offering visitors to their open events the chance to apply for a course on-line - on the day.

If you know what you want to do and you are keen to sign up, Stourbridge College has the technology in place to help you secure your place now.

Register for one of our open events - www.stourbridge.ac.uk - and you'll get the chance to win a £100 Westfield Voucher when you come along.



Students seen with MP Margot James as they receive their awards

OPEN DOORS FOR AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY

Our open events are taking place on Thursday, November 3 between 6-9pm and Saturday, November 5, 10am and 2pm.

See first-hand what college life is really like. Come along and see for yourself what facilities are on offer, what courses are available and what our locations are like.

We've recently invested in a new fitness suite and iZone break out area for students at the Hagley Road centre.

You'll get the chance to meet staff, lecturers as well as support staff who will show you around, giving you information about what you can expect when you come to Stourbridge College.

For art and design courses go to the centre in Brierley Hill, for construction and the built environment go to the Advanced Technology Centre and for A-levels, vocational and motor vehicle go to Hagley Road centre.

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS

Stourbridge College celebrated student success at a glittering awards ceremony.

Eighteen students from across all college faculties were nominated for OSCAR awards which were held at the Copthorne Hotel in the presence of special guest speaker, Margot James, MP for Stourbridge.

Students were each presented with a £100 Westfield gift voucher, an OSCAR statue and the overall student of the year, Pardeep Boora, was presented with a £200 Westfield gift voucher.



iZone Hagley Road centre



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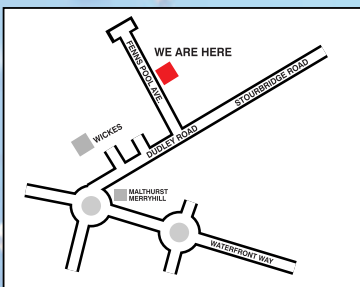


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thechronicle

School-run parents hit by fines

Scores of parents across the Black Country and Staffordshire have been fined for illegally parking outside schools in just five weeks as police and councils crack down on the problem.

Motorists are being handed £70 fines when they are caught parking on zig-zags and double yellow lines despite being banned from parking there during school hours. In Dudley eight fines were handed out, in Sandwell 27 have been penalised since the school year started in September and 26 in Wolverhampton.

Elsewhere, five fines were handed out in Cannock, eight in Walsall,

eight in Dudley and two in Stafford. Council chiefs and police insist they are trying to protect the public.

Cars have been clogging up roads outside Manor Way, Huntingtree, Lutley, Howley Grange and Caslon primary schools in Halesowen.

Police community support officers were first drafted in before the summer holidays to try to stem the problem.

Congested roads outside Blackwood Primary School in Walsall have also caused problems, forcing buses up on to pavements to get around the vehicles. Pupils at Whetstone Field Primary, Aldridge raised cash for

four special warning signs so teachers and pupils could do their own patrols during rush hour.

A new £25 million learning campus in Wolverhampton at the site of the King's C of E School has seen issues caused by traffic arriving at The King's School and neighbouring Woodthorne Primary.

Sandwell Councillor Derek Rowley said child safety was a "top priority". He added: "We have warned people that it is illegal to park outside schools and that is why there are yellow zig-zag lines to indicate no parking between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday."

Robbery in centre

A man was pushed against a wall and robbed while walking through a Black Country town centre, say police.

The 18-year-old victim was walking home in Stourbridge when a man in his 30s demanded his wallet.

The victim was heading along Hanbury Passageway towards Worcester Street at 7.45pm on October 5 when the attack happened.

Call Dudley CID on 0345 113 5000 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 with information.

Elderly flee as lorry in flames

More than 20 elderly residents were evacuated from a care home when a lorry on a nearby road went up in flames.

The residents at Bryden House, Kidderminster were rushed out when the blaze broke out at about 9pm on October 19.

They were taken into nearby houses in Marpool Lane for about 45 minutes until the fire had been put out.

Last appointment for doctor

For almost 20 years, Dr Subodh Jain and wife Anu have helped cure the coughs, colds and more serious illnesses of people in the Dudley borough.

After working for 13 years around the UK as a hospital doctor, and as a GP in London, Dr Jain set up his own practice in Masefield Road, Gornal, in 1992.

He has worked with long-term conditions at Dudley's Primary Care Trust and carried out community sessions to help people with cardio-diabetes and dermatological conditions.

But now he is taking retirement, having handed the business over to Lower Gornal Medical Practice in Bull Street, Gornal Wood.

"I am going to miss the community aspect of it."

"I feel I have tried to help my patients, and the community, to the best I can," said Dr Jain, aged 64, of Sedgley.

"I want to travel a bit - in the winter I am going to Australia and New Zealand, and then in the summer I will be going to China."

He and Mrs Jain, who is practice manager and partner in the firm, plan to hold a farewell open afternoon on October 28.

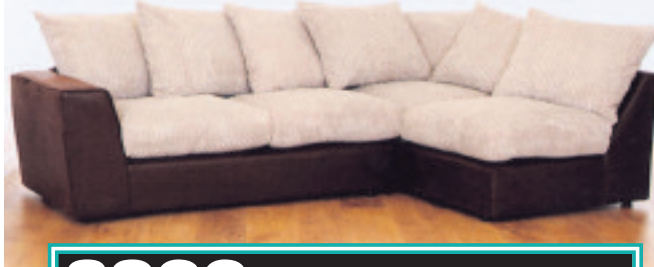


Dr Subodh Jain and wife Anu are preparing to bid farewell to Masefield Road Surgery, where they have been for almost 20 years, at the end of the month

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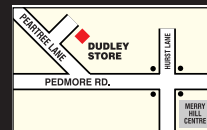
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thechronicle

Hopes of return for social club dashed

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Hopes that a historic Black Country social club could reopen have been dashed because the site has been bought by investors in London.

Brierley Hill Labour Club has stood empty since it closing last year after more than 70 years when profits began to plummet. It was recently sold for £215,000 at auction.

Administrators assured locals the mystery buyers wanted to keep it as a club.

But now they have put the derelict site up for let and have admitted it may not remain as a business premises.

Stuart Doolittle, of letting agents Lex Allan, said the two London-based investors, who want to remain anonymous, are looking at "all options" for the site.

Restaurant

He said: "They are very open-minded in terms of what can go in there."

"Ideally we would like it to become a restaurant but there is no restriction on what it could be. They are now looking specifically at it being a pub or club."

There have been two viewings at the site but no-one has expressed interest of moving in, he said.

Residents said last week they felt "disappointed" that the building may not be a licensed premises.

Jim Charles, aged 68, of Talbot Street, said: "When it was sold it all sounded really positive and we hoped it would be a club for us all to visit again."

"It's an eyesore so anything that can be done will be an improvement."

"But this was such a historic place that it will be a shame to see it lose its character."

The club, which was founded in the 1930s, was often packed on election nights and was used for Labour Party meetings until the late 1990s.

It went into administration after it started losing thousands.

Tribute to leader Stephen



Beaver leader Helen Gasson, Beaver Ryan Shingler, aged seven, Cub Thomas Jeavons, 10, and Scout Brandon Peters, 12, with fellow Scouts

A campfire circle set to be used by future generations of young Beavers, Cubs and Scouts has been built in memory of a former Black Country Scout leader. The memorial in honour of 27-year-old Stephen Danks, who died in 2006 after falling from a balcony while on holiday in Bulgaria, has been more than a year in the making at the 1st Lower Gornal Scout group. It was built after Mr Danks's family donated money for a project in his memory.

Mr Danks was involved with 1st Lower Gornal Scout Group from a young age, starting as a Cub then a Scout then becoming a Venture Scout before progressing to become a leader. He loved camping and outdoor pursuits.



Stephen Danks

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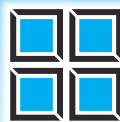
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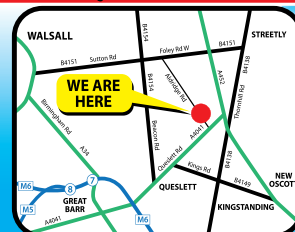
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thechronicle

Calendar Girls, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Tim Firth's warm and funny play based on the true story of a Yorkshire Women's Institute who posed nude for a calendar in aid of leukaemia research has, like the naked calendar, become a phenomenon.

The UK's most successful touring production, which has proved an even bigger box office than the hit movie it is derived from, is coming to the end of its four-year trek around the theatres of the nation, which has given actresses of a certain age the chance to join a great girls' night out.

The fact that ladies of a certain age still fill theatres to see it, this time on the play's fourth visit to the West Midlands, is a testament to its enduring appeal.

Loose Woman and original cast member Lynda Bellingham returns to the role of Chris, the main force behind the calendar idea, and strikes an immediate chord with the audience. Jan Harvey sensitively plays the role of her best friend Annie. It is the death of her popular husband John which inspires the fundraising and his gradual decline due to cancer is poignantly portrayed by Joe McGann.

The star-studded cast also features Rula Lenska as Celia, the trophy wife with the racy past whose major attributes require "considerably bigger buns"

to preserve her modesty: Ruth Madoc as the disapproving WI chief; Jennifer Ellison as Scouse single mum Cora; and Coronation Street actor Bruno Langley, confusingly cast in dual roles as the photographer and a TV commercial director.

The two best performances were from lesser-known actresses, Debbie Chazen as the confidence-lacking Ruth, who becomes the mouse who roars (something unprintable) at Camilla Dallerup's patronising beauty queen; and June Watson as retired teacher Jessie, who has some of the wisest and wittiest lines, including the stipulation that there must be "no front bottoms" revealed.

Nudity is only glimpsed and tastefully, comically done, and the laugh-out-loud first act has a more poignant second act, in which the amazing international success of the calendar causes a rift between the friends.

The set looks a little tired and creaky but it is supposed to be a village hall and they usually are tired and creaky.

Get ready for another round of Calendar Girls fever next year when amateur companies get the rights to perform the play... in the meantime catch this version while you can but there aren't many tickets left.

It finishes at the Grand on Saturday.
Leon Burakowski

Paul Daniels, Concert Hall, Dudley

He has been on the entertainment scene for decades and has made millions of people laugh, but Paul Daniels' new tour didn't really work magic for me.

I liked it – well, parts of it – but not a lot, to paraphrase the magician. The first half of Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow performance at Dudley Concert Hall saw the 73-year-old mix some jokes with a particularly impressive illusion in which he made a young girl appear to be floating above a table.

Thrown in were a couple of card tricks and although impressive, they didn't really make me feel I was seeing anything particularly amazing. This was followed by a series of tricks by Daniels' son, Martin, who seemed to lack the presence of his father, and the occasional appearance from Debbie McGee.

In the second half of the show, there were card and scarf and rabbit in a hat tricks.

This was followed by some more audience participation and 'mind control'. The crowd seemed to leave feeling happy. It just didn't leave me feeling like I had anything new.

Shaun Jepson



Martin Daniels, Paul Daniels and Debbie McGee were in Dudley

Sharon Shannon, Glee Club, Birmingham

Irish folk musician Sharon Shannon is called a virtuoso of the accordion and boy does she deserve it. She does things with that squeezebox that a decade ago the Catholic church would have banned as incendiary.

Internationally-renowned Shannon came along with special guest and fellow veteran of the Irish/folk music circuit Eleanor McEvoy.

During the first part of show McEvoy had a chance to display her wonderful versatility on guitars, fiddle and even using a couple of boxes of Smarties as instruments.

Then it was down to Shannon and her band of extremely talented musicians to give the appreciative Glee audience a perfect example of the Craic and she hit them right between the eyes from the very first track.

Considering she spends the whole set sitting down, the energy Shannon puts into the jigs and reels during her performance with her hands just a blur as they fire out notes with every squeeze of her instrument is just infectious.

With tracks such as Jewels in the Ocean, Duo in G which she played with Dezi Donnelly, who is an absolutely awesome fiddle player, Raitlin Island and Flying Circus the musician from Clare set the Birmingham club alight.

Shannon of course finished the night with the two songs, Blackbird and Galway Girl, which have become her signature tunes and were constantly demanded by her persistent fans, who even in the cosy confines of the Glee studio found room to get up and dance.

Danny Farragher

REVIEWS

Cliff Richard, The Soulicious Tour, LG Arena

They came from near and far to pay homage to the Peter Pan of pop and he didn't disappoint.

Cliff Richard maybe realised the long trek many fans had made and launched into From a Distance. Keen to promote his latest album Soulicious.

Cliff treated the packed LG to memories from his career. The 71-year-singer, who left the stage for five costume changes during the two and a half hour show is still sprightly and kept up with his dancers.

One by one soul stars including Percy Sledge, Lamont Dozier, Freda Payne, Billy Davis Jnr and Jaki Graham joined Sir Cliff on stage to perform their own hits as well as their duet with Cliff. But he always kept his promise to his "delicious" fans and switched back to songs such as I Could Easily Fall and In The Country from his Shadows era. Predictably he went into The Young Ones and Summer Holiday and then into Devil Woman.

Cliff came back for his encore with Always and Forever.

Sue Attwater



Mr Stink, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

THE children's book by the taller half of Little Britain, David Walliams, has been turned into a delightful musical with a positive message about love and acceptance, adapted and directed by Matthew White.

Peter Edbrook was charming as the whiffy aristocratic tramp with a talking (to audience only) dog befriended by lonely schoolgirl Chloe Cumberley, played with a nice innocence by Lotte Gilmore.

In return Mr Stink gets a spoilt bully off her back with a strategically placed belch and paps at the Prime Minister to destroy the political ambitions of Chloe's wannabe MP mother, the operatically-voiced Julia J Nagle. Chloe's mum was the sort of person to insist her surname be pronounced 'croom'. Irvin Iqbal added several funny cameos, including barmy confectionary-obsessed shop-keeper Raj.

The show was dubbed a scratch and sniff musical but to me every pong on the handout was identical... thankfully the show was no stinker.

Leon Burakowski



What will we say when you're gone – Andy Bell

Erasure simply out of this world

Erasure, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

Billed as the 'Tomorrow's World' tour, it was more 'Out of This World' for Erasure at a packed-to-the-rafters Civic Hall.

Twenty five years after their first major UK Top 40 hit, Sometimes, the electronic pop duo of Andy Bell and Vince Clarke took to a gothic-themed stage set, complete with gargoyles keyboard arrangement for Clarke, alongside just two backing singers, sisters Emma and Valerie Chalmers, to the lesser-known 'Sono Luminus' from a 1995 album.

But the party atmosphere began there and didn't stop for the duo's hour-and-a-half well-chosen set.

And the guys certainly cut the mustard as much today as they did a quarter of a century ago.

New material from the recently-released Tomorrow's World album including Fill Us With Fire, You've Got To Save Me Right Now and A Whole Lotta Love Run Riot, mixed perfectly with classics such as Love To Hate You, Stop, Always, A Little Respect, Ship Of Fools and Blue Savannah Song.

Andy Bell looked amazing, entering the stage in a pink sequined jacket and matching Roman helmet. He entertained the crowd with his amazing prouetting and jumping throughout every song during the set.

The encore included 'Oh L'Amour', followed by the classic Stop!, only now being older and wiser, all the crowd could say is that the duo have gained more than a little respect for a stunning and spectacular show.

Emma Farmer

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Tunnel plan will solve homes row

A housing estate will be built in the grounds of a stately home after a row over wildlife at the site was resolved.

A special tunnel will be dug to accommodate wildlife at Wordsley Manor when the houses are constructed. The proposals were given the go-ahead by Dudley planning chiefs despite objections from more than 100 residents.

And some councillors at a recent meeting said the manor house would be "desecrated" by the development.

The scheme has faced stiff opposition from conservation body Natural England which said rare slow worms and bat roostings could be at risk.

Now a "corridor" will be dug out through the grounds in Meadowfields Close, covered in metal grids for animals to nest in, while holes will be cut into walls for creatures to crawl through.

The plans were passed by five votes to four at the meeting, with councillors suggesting the 14 new homes would not fit in with the 18th century house.

Landlord calls time on slide



John Coombes begins taking down the slide at The Summerhouse Pub in Sedgley

A pub landlord has taken down a giant slide at the centre of a long-running dispute after temporary planning permission expired.

John Coombes has called time on the 9ft slide at The Summerhouse, Gospel End Road, Sedgley.

It brings to an end years of fighting to keep the slide after neighbours complained about the levels of noise and its use.

But he still plans to have a slide at the site next summer - in an inflatable version.

Mr Coombes was granted

temporary permission for the attraction by South Staffordshire Council in 2009, but the period has now expired.

The landlord said while he had been given the option to resubmit an application to keep the slide he simply did not have the resources to start the process again.

"It would be like starting from scratch," he said. "Nothing has changed from when the application was approved in 2009 but we would have to submit exactly the same plans and go through the same process all over again."

MP raises concerns on gipsy site plans

A Midland MP has voiced concerns over council plans for new gipsy and traveller sites. Wyre Forest District Council says it needs to identify 43 more pitches for gipsies and travellers by 2022, as well as a site for travelling show people.

Sites including Stourport Road Bewdley; former Sion Hill School, Kidderminster; Lea Castle Hospital, Cookley; land adjacent to Nunn's Corner, Saiwen; The Gables Yard and farmland on St John's Road, all Stourport-on-Severn are being considered in a consultation process which was launched to give people the chance to have their say.

Wyre Forest MP Mark Garnier says he fears Wyre Forest communities could be faced with even more sites for travellers and says they already have "their fair share".

Public consultation meetings are being held at Wolverley Memorial Hall for the former Sion Hill School site on October 31; Stourport Civic Hall for the sites at St John's Farm, The Gables Yard, Saiwen and land adjacent to Nunn's Corner, on November 2.

Vicar in new campaign

A Stourport vicar has teamed up with the Church of England's mental health group to campaign to increase awareness across the country.

Rev Eva McIntyre, of St Michael and All Angels Church, is working with

the Time to Change campaign to help people understand about the affects of mental health problems.

The scheme will be providing ideas and information packs to help churches plan services on the theme of mental health.

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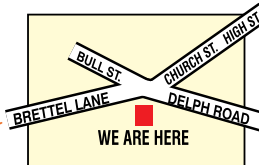


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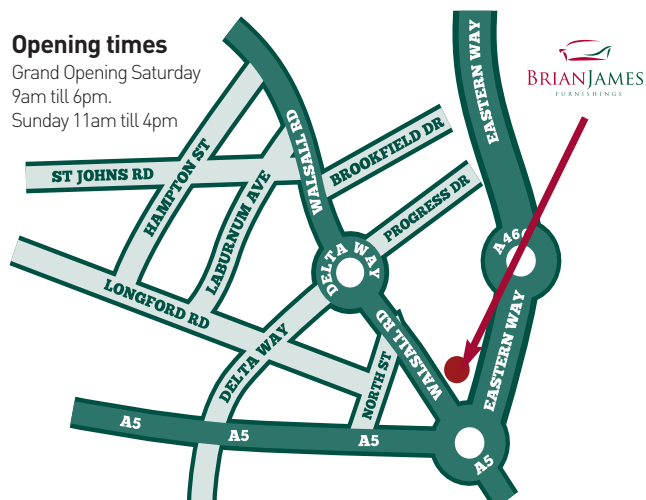
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thechronicle

COMPETITION

Tuck into this tasty ticket offer

THE BBC Good Food Show Winter is 21 this year and to celebrate we have teamed up with the organisers to offer 10 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets.

The BBC Good Food Show is at Birmingham's NEC from Wednesday, November 23 to Sunday, November 27 and as the biggest and best food show in the country it has been paving the way for food shows for the past 21 years.

This year the line-up is just as stellar as always with top foodie faces including John Torode, Gregg Wallace, James Martin, Rick Stein, Glynn Purnell and many more taking to the 2,000-seater Supertheatre.

There will be hundreds of exhibitors from Flavours of Spain to British Fine Foods and Luponde tea plus come and see some exhibitors who have been

**Food show
serves up
treat for
its 21st
birthday**

with the show from the very beginning including Foxes Spices and The Curry Sauce Company.

With Christmas just around the corner it will be the perfect place to pick up inspiration to make your Christmas stand out from the crowds this year and try something different.



John Torode and Gregg Wallace, presenters of MasterChef, will be in the show Supertheatre

For more information about the show, visit www.thenec.co.uk. Ticket prices start at just £20.50 and are available from The Ticket Factory: www.theticketfactory.com or 0844 338 8000.



Lots of food to sample at the show

HOW TO ENTER

To stand a chance of winning answer the following question:



NEC Birmingham
23-27 November 2011

How many does the Supertheatre seat?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number (only one entry per household) to

Food Show competition,
Chronicle series (editorial),
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton,
WV1 1ES.

Closing date: Thursday,
November 3.

Competition ticket cannot be used on the Saturday. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

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Looking Good and Feeling Great

A Trio of Businesses aiming to give you the 'Feel Good Factor' for any Occasion

There are times when the stresses and strains of everyday life can be just too much to take. One day in particular that can be high in stress levels is the day of someone's wedding. The combination of three of Halesowen's businesses who specialise in Weddings, Proms and all other special occasions is designed to reduce the stress of the day and deliver the dream start to any marriage. A lot of planning and co-ordination has to take place from the point a bride says 'yes', to the point she says 'I do' and for some brides the one day they have dreamt about all their lives becomes a reality.

On Sunday the 6th of November SMHeart Hair, Amanda Kim Bridal Designs and Pretty Petals will be holding an Open Day to showcase their services to the people of Halesowen and surrounding areas. The Hayley Green trio combine very effectively to ensure every special occasion whether it be wedding, prom or other, comes off with style and panache, the trio delivering excellence and unrivalled service to all their customers. The open day which starts at 10.30 and finishes at 4.00 will be a fun packed day with refreshments available to all visitors, and if that were not enough some very attractive offers. SMHeart Hair are offering the first ten customers a voucher for a free cut and blow dry valued at £25.00 whilst Amanda Kim and Pretty Petals are offering a 10% discount for any bookings taken on the day.



Amanda Kim Bridal Designs

When it comes to that special day, first of all there is the all important dress. This part of ship is the sole domain of Amanda Kim Bridal Designs.

Kim Watkins, owner and proprietor of the business has a wealth of experience as a fully qualified seamstress achieving a national diploma in Fashion and Clothing Technology in 1989. Kim offers a bespoke Service, taking initial concepts and designs all the way to completion. Off the peg bridal gowns and bridesmaid dresses are also available as Kim is a stockist for Hilary Morgan and Simply Stunning dress manufacturers. Kim works hard to provide a pressure free consultation giving advice and technical expertise to all enquirers. Kim works hard to provide a pressure free consultation given advice and technical expertise to all enquirers. Her services extend to a dressing service either at clients home or venue to ensure that customers look their absolute best on the day. Shoes, Tiaras, Jewellery and all the usual accessories are available through the company.

SMHeart Hair

Hair and makeup are one of the areas that are crucial for a bride to look and feel her best. Linda Prestidge heads up the SMHeart Hair Salon and has vast experience in the business having been a stylist for many years. Most recently the Salon was awarded Four Stars by The Good Salon Guide and was selected for entry in the Best of Stourbridge Guide with some glowing references from clients. Linda provides a full range of treatments including styling, cutting, colouring and perming as well as nail and conditioning treatments. On the Open Day Linda will be joined by a professional makeup artist and Philip Westwood (Reiki Master/Teacher) who will be offering free Reiki taster sessions to clients. Not just looking good but feeling good too.

Pretty Petals

For flowers the team rely on Jenny Smith of Pretty Petals. Jenny has been a florist from the age of 15 and gains immense pleasure from the creative outlet that job provides. All the usual services can be provided by Pretty Petals including posies, table decorations and button holes. Flowers have long been used to convey meaning and there are more and more occasions throughout the year where flowers are given. Jenny is already taking bookings for Christmas wreaths and decorations and welcomes enquiries from customers old and new.

So if you are thinking of tying the knot any day soon or are planning a prom, take a trip to Hayley Green on Sunday the 6th of November, all three businesses are located adjacent to each other just off the A456. With many offers and goody bags being given away the day is sure to be a huge success and you are guaranteed an experience to prove that 'The whole is greater than the sum of the parts.'



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The Saturdays on the cover of their latest single My Heart Takes Over and (below) Vanessa White

Saturdays soon to be On Your Radar

If you haven't picked up on the Saturdays by now, they will be On Your Radar from November 21.

It has been three years since the band first troubled the charts with debut release If This Is Love. Some 11 singles later, they have gone on to become the country's favourite – and most glamorous – girl band and are about to embark on their first arena tour. And the baby of the group, Vanessa White, cannot wait.

The quintet have been busy rehearsing for the 12-date tour, which kicks off in Bournemouth on December 2 and hits the LG Arena, Birmingham on December 8.

"We love touring and performing and we can't wait to get started," the Yeovil-born songstress told The Chronicle. "It's our first arena tour, so it's the big one for us, really. It's all very exciting."

Before that, the band's new single My Heart Takes Over is out on November 13. It will be third track, following Notorious and All Fired Up, from the third studio album, entitled On Your Radar. Previous singles have shown a marked difference from the Saturdays' earlier

material. Vanessa, who turns 22 on Sunday (30), said she was looking forward to the release.

"We've had a lot more input than ever before and put a lot of time into it," she said. "So it's a lot more personal to us."

The Saturdays' previous tour spawned a fly-on-the-wall mini-documentary series, The Saturdays: What Goes On Tour. Although there are no concrete plans for a follow-up, Vanessa said talks had taken place over a similar series in America.

Attention

This year's Valentine's Day date at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall also saw young Kyle Orchard present a red rose to each band member. So, what does Vanessa think of all the male attention? Simply: "It's very flattering."

Tour dates finish on December 18 before another new single is released in the New Year ahead of another significant date, the birth of bandmate Una Healy's baby in March, with Vanessa readily admitting they were all "looking forward to being aunts."

A Hard Knock Life for boozy Miss Hannigan

BUBBLY actress and comedienne Su Pollard is heading back to Wolverhampton to play boozy Miss Hannigan one more time as the hard touring musical Annie comes to the end of the road.

Nottingham-born Su has fond memories of the Grand Theatre, she was in panto there just before she landed the TV role of Peggy the chalet maid in fondly remembered 1980s holiday camp sit-com Hi-de-Hi!

Su, who has lived in London for 35 years, said she loved the gypsy lifestyle of being in a touring show and has played Miss Hannigan on-and-off for eight years. When she wasn't in the role it was played by her good friend Ruth Madoc, who played her Hi-de-Hi! nemesis Gladys Pugh.

"I think Annie is one of the classic musicals," said Su. "It has such a positive message, especially for times such as these. It's about never giving up hope."

Su has a ball as the drunken orphanage boss whose family try to cash-in on little orphan Annie's new found riches, when she is adopted by Daddy Warbucks.

"I think poor Miss Hannigan is much misunderstood," said Su. "Look at the poor woman. She has no life. She is stuck in that orphanage 24-7. She has to put up with these pasty-faced orphans singing and giggling all the time. No wonder she's hit the bottle!"

Su revealed that her drink-sodden dragon is based on a real person whom



Su Pollard as Miss Hannigan

she encountered back home in Nottingham.

"It's the butcher's wife," said Su. "She was a lovely lady but was a borderline alcoholic. As a result she was rather unkempt, her hair all skewwhiff. Life had got too much for her and so she was on the gin. Miss Hannigan is

much the same, except she's on the Jack Daniels."

One of Su's most notorious TV appearances involved someone who had hit the bottle. She was the unfortunate other guest on the night the late Oliver Reed made his notorious drunken appearance on the Michael Aspel chat show.

"Poor Oliver, he had been at a wedding reception all day and had called at a pub on the way to the studio," remembered Su.

Cultured

"He thought he had a reputation to live up to of being inebriated and a bit dangerous and it got out of hand that night. He was actually a very nice man, he later invited me to have dinner with him at The Ivy and he didn't touch a drop that night. Though he didn't actually use the word 'sorry', he did say he had been 'a bit out of order'."

Su was also keen to pay tribute to the recently deceased David Croft, who created Hi-de-Hi! with co-writer Jimmy Perry, and gave her the plum role of dotty Peggy Ollerenshaw.

"I owe him a lot," said Su. "He was a very cultured man and he would also take a risk on casting a relatively unknown actor or actress, such as myself at the time."

Su is looking forward to joining the Tomorrow musical for one more turn at the Hard Knock Life before this version of the show finally comes to an end. Then she plans to hit the road again next year in her own one-woman show.

Annie will be staged at Wolverhampton Grand from Tuesday, November 1, until Saturday, November 5.

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Friday 6th January SNOW WHITE At Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton 7.15 Showing	\$35.00	\$33.00	\$31.00
Tuesday 17th January CINDERELLA Hippodrome, Birmingham 7.15 Showing	\$35.00	\$33.00	\$31.00

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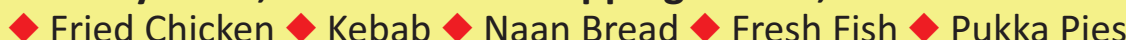
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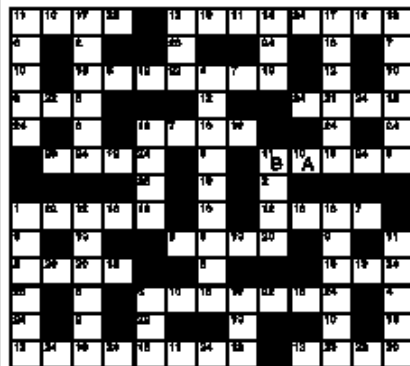


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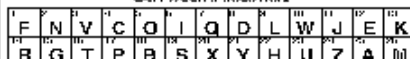
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- They shouldn't be drunk, for example, when doctors are around (5)
- Modified a date pad, perhaps (7)
- Cheddar, made by police (7)
- Billy followed a direction to aim (5)
- A spring located in a good position (4-6)
- A bottle in the last year (10)
- After a tonic, people may sing it (3-2)
- Ran site in a more disapproving way (7)
- Does it overshadow an empty descendant? (7)
- A match for a god (5)

Down

- People of an earlier age roughly dream aside (10)
- Increases the rent? (5)
- Alma's second hand (4)
- It's prepared to hang (6)
- Change to a lesser action in Europe (8)
- Trusty stem (7)
- Preside man in the street (10)
- His creation an artist is deeply impressive (8)
- Pleasant for fairy tales? (7)
- Strip of Dundee origin (6)
- It's a wash out (5)
- Keep a broken vase (4)

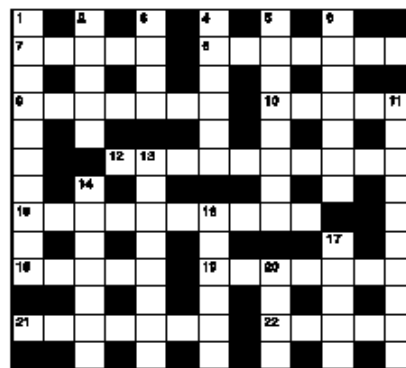
Quick Clues:

Across

- Sound (5)
- Slaughter (7)
- Cross (7)
- Punitive (5)
- Inability (10)
- Pleasant (10)
- Prongs (5)
- Prop (7)
- Inlet (7)
- Wash (5)

Down

- Opponent (10)
- Nimble (5)
- Clay (4)
- Division (8)
- Suggestion (8)
- Artist (7)
- Printed matter (10)
- Faces (8)
- Clasp (7)
- Army (5)
- Robust (5)
- Scheme (4)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC: Across: 1. Over the hill, 10. Quicker than, 11. Cryogenic, 12. Time, 13. Shrimp, 15. Ash and, 17. Chisel, 18. Cheddar, 20. Bored bottle, 22. True, 23. Pardon K. Down: 2. Six, 3. Always, 4. Chisel, 5. Chisel, 6. Chisel, 7. Lipstick, 8. Lipstick, 9. For a moment, 11. Chisel, 14. All right, 16. Shrimp, 18. Bored, 21. Lay, 22. Lay. QUICK: Across: 1. Pardon K, 2. True, 3. Shrimp, 4. Ash and, 5. Chisel, 6. Chisel, 7. Lipstick, 8. Lipstick, 9. For a moment, 11. Chisel, 14. All right, 16. Shrimp, 18. Bored, 21. Lay, 22. Lay. Down: 2. Six, 3. Always, 4. Chisel, 5. Chisel, 6. Chisel, 7. Lipstick, 8. Lipstick, 9. For a moment, 11. Chisel, 14. All right, 16. Shrimp, 18. Bored, 21. Lay, 22. Lay.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.



Circlegram

Redesign the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
 The letter represented by the question mark is 'H'. The three words are: 'CASH', 'LOCH', 'MUSE'.

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Amo Kalirai, Senior Financial Consultant of Your Move in Wednesfield commented:

"With every likelihood that interest rates could continue to hold at 0.5 percent for the foreseeable future, lenders are competing for borrowers and coming up with some great mortgage deals which buyers are taking advantage of."

"House prices too are beginning to stabilise (**) – after months of decline – which should also be of encouragement to sellers. They could take advantage of increasing buyer interest especially from first time buyers and those looking for alternative investment opportunities following possible disappointing returns from investment in shares and savings accounts."

"With affordability at its best for years, continuing low interest rates, some great mortgage deals and increased buyer and investor interest, it really does add up to a much improved market and one we'd certainly recommend buyers, sellers, landlords and investors take advantage of while they can".

If you want to find out more about how Your Move may be able to help you as a buyer or seller or if you want to find out more about their great range of mortgage and remortgage services simply contact the Your Move office at 21 High Street, Wednesfield, WV11 1ST or call then at 01902 305665 (***).

(*) Halifax Research – August 2011

(**) See: www.independent.co.uk/life-style/house-and-home/property/house-prices-stabilise-2332298.html

(***) Calls may be recorded and/or monitored for training and/or data protection purposes

1 Think carefully before securing other debts against your home. Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.

For mortgage advice our initial consultation is free, but there will be a mortgage application fee. The precise amount will depend upon your circumstances and will not exceed £399. A minimum fee of £299 applies.

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A picturesque home for sale in sought location

This most unique property, in Penn, forms part of a small development which was formed by the creative conversion of a number of period properties to provide mews style houses of enormous charm and appeal.

Number 4 Laburnum Cottage is a more modern property within the

development and it benefits from well-proportioned and well-appointed living accommodation – backing on to a most pleasant rear garden – with parking for two cars to the side.

In more detail, the accommodation comprises entrance canopy/porch, lounge with French doors opening on to the garden, dining hall, re-fitted kitchen,

utility/cloakroom WC, three bedrooms and bathroom.

Penn Common is a most sought after location with a school and further range of amenities available within Penn and Wolverhampton.

The property is on the market for offers based on £285,000 via estate agent Berriman Eaton. For further details, or to arrange a visit, contact 01902 326366 or visit www.berrimaneaton.co.uk



Number 4 Laburnum Cottages is a three-bedroom house, situated on a small development in Penn

humberstones homes

0121 678 7788

www.humberstoneshomes.co.uk

LOWER WHITE ROAD, QUINTON

NEW

Two bedroom semi with off road parking
21ft 11 lounge & refitted kitchen
Conservatory style dining room/utility
Two double bedrooms & bathroom
Parking to front & enclosed rear garden
UPVC double glazing & gas central heating
£117,500 Ref: D1133

CLIFTON ROAD, HALESOWEN

NEW

Off road parking to front & rear
Lounge overlooking garden & kitchen
2 bedrooms & bathroom on 1st floor
Rear garden with patio & sunny aspect
Benefitting UPVC, DBG, fascias & soffits
Fitted with gas central heating & alarm
£115,000 Ref: D1126

APSLEY ROAD, OLDBURY

NEW

Modern 2 bed ground floor flat
Lounge & fitted breakfast kitchen
Secure gated development
Fitted with UPVC DBG & GCH
Allocated parking & communal gardens
Vacant possession - no upward chain
£109,950 Ref: D1132

DEVON ROAD, BEARWOOD

NEW PRICE

4 bed extended 3 storey home
3 large reception rooms with extension
12ft breakfast kitchen, utility room & d/s WC
Master bedroom with en-suite shower room
3 further double beds, study area & bathroom
17ft integral garage & driveway to front
£285,000 Ref: D1091

BISHOPS WALK, HALESOWEN BORDER

NEW PRICE

Five bedroom home with double garage
No upward chain - vacant possession
Lounge, see dining room & study
Breakfast kitchen, utility room & d/s WC
Master bed with in-suite shower room
Fitted with UPVC dty & GCH
£279,950 Ref:

OAK ROAD, OLDBURY

NEW PRICE

Extended link det home with conservatory
25 ft 7 lounge diner & extended refitted kitchen
Side garage with utility area
Three bedrooms & bathroom
Driveway to rear garden with southerly aspect
Double glazing (upvc in part) & GCH
£175,000 Ref: D1064

PENNINE WAY, STOURBRIDGE

NEW PRICE

Much improved 2 bed semi det home
Situated on popular Penfields development
Refitted dining kitchen, lounge & conservatory
Refitted bathroom with separate shower cubicle
Driveway with parking & access to garage
Benefitting UPVC DBG & GCH (combi boiler)
£129,950 Ref: D1105

BODENHAM ROAD, OLDBURY

NEW PRICE

Semi detached home with off road parking
No upward chain
Lounge, spacious kitchen/diner & conservatory
Three bedrooms & bathroom
Well proportioned & enclosed rear garden
upvc double glazing & gas central heating
£112,500 Ref: D1062

HOWLEY GRANGE ROAD, LAPAL

NEW PRICE

Semi-det 3 bed home in sought after area
UPVC conservatory & 2 reception rooms
Refitted kitchen & 11ft fitted utility room & garage
Large landscaped rear garden with private aspect
Garage & blockpaved gated driveway
UPVC double glazed, GCH & security system
£240,000 Ref: D1098

KENELM COURT, ROMSLEY

NEW PRICE

Superb 2 bed detached bungalow
Benefiting new DBG & GCH boiler
Refitted kitchen with built in appliances
Landscape on rear looking over gardens
Off road parking & enclosed rear garden
Internal inspection essential to appreciate property
£167,500 Ref:

ST MATTHEWS ROAD, OLDBURY

NEW PRICE

Extended semi-det home requiring completion
3/4 beds on first floor with family bathroom
17ft lounge & 11ft 7 separate dining room
12ft breakfast kitchen, study & downstairs WC
Driveway leads to unfinished garage & utility
UPVC double glazing & gas central heating
£119,950 Ref:

SEEDHOUSE COURT, CRADLEY HEATH

NEW PRICE

Spacious first floor flat with two double beds
Secluded position over looking woodland
Lounge & kitchen - with woodland views
Communal rear gardens - allocated parking
Fitted with gas central heating & combi boiler
Vacant possession - No upward chain
£89,950 Ref: D1046

Halesowen Office
0121 550 7474

DIXONS

Estate Agents

DoingMore...

Hill Top Avenue, Halesowen



£110,000 **NEW INSTRUCTION**

Two bedroom terraced property, lounge, kitchen, downstairs wc, first floor bathroom and separate shower, double glazing and central heating, driveway and rear garden

Woburn Drive, Halesowen



£150,000 **NEW**

Three bedroom semi detached, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, garage, first floor bathroom, central heating and double glazing, driveway and rear garden

Parkfield Close, Halesowen



£140,000 **NEW INSTRUCTION**

Three bedroom end terraced house, kitchen/diner, lounge, guest wc, first floor bathroom, central heating and double glazing, no upward chain.

Sheepfold Close, Rowley Regis



£100,000 **NEW**

Two bedroom modern property, lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, parking and rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

Burmese Way, Rowley Regis



£190,000 **NEW**

Three bedroom detached property, downstairs wc, lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen/diner, first floor bathroom and en suite shower room, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage.

Howley Grange Road, Halesowen



£240,000

An extended traditional three bedroom semi detached house, lounge, conservatory, dining room, kitchen, utility, downstairs wc, bathroom, garage, driveway, rear garden, central heating and double glazing.

Romsley Close, Halesowen



Offers Over £160,000

Modern three bedroom semi detached property, modern kitchen, lounge/diner, first floor modern bathroom and shower, garage, block paved driveway, rear garden.

Ross Heights, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £125,000

Three bedroom semi detached property in need of updating, two reception rooms, kitchen, first floor bathroom, garage, driveway and rear garden. No upward chain.

Albrighton Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £130,000

Three bedroom semi detached property, kitchen, lounge, first floor bathroom, front and rear gardens double glazing and central heating. No upward chain.

Westbourne Road, Halesowen



£130,000 **REDUCED**

Three bedroom semi detached property, lounge/diner, conservatory, kitchen, first floor bathroom, double glazing and central heating, rear garden and driveway.

Frankley Avenue, Halesowen



£200,000

REDUCED

Three bedroom traditional semi detached property, lounge, kitchen/diner, utility, bathroom, separate wc, driveway, garage, front and rear gardens, double glazing and central heating.



Winsford Close, Halesowen



£180,000

Three bedroom semi detached property, reception room, lounge, study, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, first floor bathroom, gardens to the rear/side and front and driveway.

Chatsworth Road, Halesowen



£135,000 **REDUCED**

Three bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising of a through lounge, kitchen and bathroom. Garage and rear garden.

Shelton Lane, Halesowen



£130,000 **REDUCED**

Three bedroom semi detached property, lounge, open plan kitchen/diner, bathroom, rear garden and driveway, double glazing and central heating.

King Street, Halesowen



Offers Over £110,000

This end terrace house has entrance lobby, downstairs wc, lounge, kitchen, utility room, three bedrooms, bathroom and rear garden. Also benefiting from double glazing (where specified)

Abberley Close, Halesowen



£170,000

Four/ five bedroom property comprising lounge, kitchen, office/ playroom/ bedroom five with shower room, bathroom, block paved driveway for parking and enclosed rear garden.



King Street, Halesowen



£110,000

Three bedroom terrace property, downstairs wc, lounge, kitchen, utility room, bathroom and rear garden. Also benefiting from double glazing.

Hanley Close, Halesowen



£140,000

Modern three bedroom detached house, lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom, double glazing and central heating, garage, driveway and rear garden.

Petford Street, Cradley Heath



£110,000

A three bedroom property, lounge, kitchen/diner, first floor bathroom, rear garden, central heating and double glazing, parking and garage.

Lansbury Road, Cradley Heath



£100,000

Three bedroom semi detached property, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, driveway providing off road parking, rear garden, double glazing and central heating, no upward chain.

Mount Street, Halesowen



£120,000

Two bedroom terrace property, two Reception rooms, refitted kitchen, refitted bathroom, rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

Woolpack Close, Rowley Regis



£107,000

A modern two bedroom end of terraced property, lounge, kitchen, bathroom and rear garden. The property benefits from central heating and double glazing.

Compton Road, Cradley Heath



£150,000

Four bedroom traditional property, lounge, dining room, extended kitchen, utility, downstairs shower room, garage, bathroom, rear garden, central heating and double glazing.



Lettings **hickshadley.com** 0121 585 6688

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HALESOWEN, HOWLEY GRANGE ROAD

A superb semi detached home, in the ever so popular area of Howley Grange, having undergone a refurbishment and being close to well sought after schools, comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Large Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower Off Tap, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Driveway and Garage Parking. Unfurnished

£650 PCM



TIVDALE, REGENT ROAD

A lovely semi-detached family home with excellent access and briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Downstairs WC and Wet Room, Further Family Bathroom with Separate Shower, Study, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Driveway Parking, Front and Rear Gardens

£600 PCM



HALESOWEN, MANSELL CLOSE

A beautifully presented semi detached family home briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms with the Main Bedroom Having Fitted Wardrobes, Spacious Living Room, Modern Dining Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, House Bathroom with Shower, Gardens and 2 Allocated Parking Spaces.

£600 PCM



HALESOWEN, BEECHER STREET

A lovely unfurnished modern semi-detached house, close to local buses, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms both En-Suite Bathrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Large Conservatory, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Low Maintenance Rear Garden, Off Road Parking

£599 PCM



LANGLEY, WOODFIELD AVENUE

Been tastefully refurbished and beautifully presented is this semi detached house, briefly comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Driveway Parking, Rear Garden, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished

£595 PCM



HALESOWEN, BETHESDA GARDENS

Located on this new build estate is this modern ground floor apartment, coming unfurnished, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Master with En-Suite, Fitted Kitchen with White Goods, Open Plan Spacious Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking, A Must View Property

£575 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, HALESOWEN ROAD

An unfurnished mid terraced house modernised throughout briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Downstairs WC, Three Good Sized Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Courtyard Style Garden, Parking to the Rear of the Property and On Road

£575 PCM



HALESOWEN, HARDEN MANOR COURT

This light and airy first floor apartment, situated a stones throw away from Halesowen town centre, briefly comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Large Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Warm Air Heating, Communal Garden, Plenty of Parking, Unfurnished

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, BLOOMFIELD STREET NORTH

located on this popular road, and close to Halesowen town Centre and Windsor High School, is this well present mid-terrace property, comprising of: Two Large Bedrooms, Cozy Lounge, Large Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Low Maintenance Rear Garden, On Road Parking, Available on a Furnished or Unfurnished Basis

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, BANNER STREET

This lovely furnished end terrace house has: Two Double Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower, Low Maintenance Rear Garden

£495 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, HIGHFIELD ROAD

This spacious and unfurnished terraced house has: Two Reception Rooms, Three Double Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, On Road Parking

£495 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, VICTORIA ROAD

An Unfurnished semi detached house briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Kitchen, Living Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking

£475 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, UNITT DRIVE

Come on the market in this popular located apartment, close to Old Hill and local train station, is this unfurnished second floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking Space

£450 PCM



OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD

This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to two lines and close to 22 of the 16, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking to Rear, Unfurnished £400 for the 1st 6 months and £425 after

£400 PCM



HALESOWEN, THORNHILL ROAD

A refurbished ground floor one bedroom flat set within a quiet location. Briefly comprising of: Fitted Kitchen, Living Room, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Separate Garage, Unfurnished

£385 PCM



DUDLEY, BEAN ROAD

A refurbished ground floor flat within easy reach of the town centre, briefly comprising of: Reception Hall with Minton Floor, Lounge, Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Shower Room, Double Glazing, and Communal Parking, Unfurnished

£380 PCM



HALESOWEN, NETHEREND LANE

On this popular development is this unfurnished ground floor flat, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Garden, Garage

£380 PCM



HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY

An Unfurnished ground floor flat on a popular development, briefly comprising of: Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Lounge, Electric Storage Heating, Parking, Communal garden

£375 PCM



HALESOWEN, NETHEREND LANE

An unfurnished ground floor apartment, well presented throughout. Modern Fitted Kitchen, Lounge/Dining Room, Bathroom with Shower, One Bedroom with Built In Wardrobes, En Block Garage.

£375 PCM



PENSNETT, ST MARKS COURT

An unfurnished ground floor flat, close to Russells Hall Hospital, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Garden, Allocated Parking Space

£350 PCM



HALESOWEN, PIPPIN AVENUE

Located on the popular Homer Hill Estate in Halesowen is this unfurnished first floor flat, briefly comprising of: Living Room/Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Garden

£340 PCM

thechronicle

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The top property guide for Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen and Kidderminster



After just four weeks on sale there are now just two remaining homes available at Regency Place, Barnett Lane, Kingswinford

Popular new buys for Kingswinford

When Regency Place, the latest development from quality Midland Builders Kendrick Homes went on sale in Kingswinford a month ago, the selling agents Lee Shaw could have been forgiven for their cautious approach.

With all the worrying news around lately - from Europe and elsewhere - this might not have seemed like the ideal moment to launch six upscale new four bedroom homes onto the market.

But in these troubled times,

Regency Place is a pleasing success story. After just four weeks, four of the six homes are already sold.

"With Kendrick Homes I'm always confident that we'll get the sales," says Peter Davenport, principal of Lee Shaw.

"But in the current climate, I wasn't expecting that things would move this quickly. I should have known better."

Quality

"With so few really high quality new homes available, Regency Place was bound to create a lot of interest."

"I know that it's a cliché, but there's no denying that quality counts."

Taking a good look at the layouts

and the specification there's also no denying that Kendrick have come up trumps again. With their usual painstaking planning and attention to detail, they have created an enticing enclave just off Barnett Lane in which each of the six homes are unique, with each carefully designed to make best possible use of their location.

It's good to have some good news for a change.

There is a sales office open at Regency Place between 11am and 5pm, Thursday through Monday.

Telephone: 01384 287622 or 07896 886448

Regency Place is situated in Barnett Lane, Kingswinford.

Yours for a 5pc deposit

ANYONE looking to take their first step on the housing ladder in Worcestershire may now only need a five per cent cash deposit thanks to a new scheme which enables customers to borrow up to 15 per cent of the cost of the property up front.

Raising a large enough deposit is often the biggest barrier to buying a place of your own as many banks currently ask buyers to put down a deposit of 20 per cent.

But help is now at hand for anyone with a good income but a low deposit who is looking to buy a new home from Barratt West Midlands - they can apply for an unsecured personal loan of up to £50,000 from Hitachi Capital.

Mortgage

Hitachi Capital has teamed up with Aldermore Bank, a specialist lender, who will offer a market leading 80 per cent mortgage. Under the scheme, a typical buyer would only need to raise a deposit of five per cent of the total price of the property. Hitachi Capital can then arrange a fixed rate unsecured loan of up to 15 per cent of the purchase price to make up the balance of the required deposit.

Stephen Cleveley, senior sales manager at Barratt West Midlands, said: "We know that there is enormous demand for home ownership amongst local people who have good incomes but are currently stuck in rented accommodation."

"This new offer is tailored to suit their needs. It is an inexpensive way to borrow the deposit required to buy a home. I would urge anyone who is interested to contact us to find out how this ground-breaking new scheme can help them to realise the dream of home ownership."

Gerald Grimes, divisional managing director at Hitachi Capital, said: "Would be homebuyers have become disheartened with the current housing market because of the large deposits demanded by a lot of lenders. Last year we teamed up with Barratt West Midlands to offer parents the opportunity to help their children onto the ladder, this year we are opening up this innovative new product to the buyers directly."

Charles Haresnape, managing director of Mortgages at Aldermore Bank, said: "There are thousands of perfectly creditworthy borrowers who are unable to get a foot on the

first rung of the housing ladder because of the difficulties of raising a deposit. This new scheme addresses that issue head-on."

To be eligible to apply for the loans, applicants must be UK residents, aged over 21 and have both a good credit rating and sufficient income to service both the deposit loan and mortgage repayments. The offer is available to all buyers, not just those buying for the first time.

Barratt West Midlands is currently selling properties suitable for first time buyers at the following developments in Worcestershire:

Waters Edge
Mart Lane
Stourport-on-Severn
DY13 9ER
Tel: 01259 828 130

Waters Edge features a range of two- bedroom apartments priced from £159,950 and three-bedroom houses priced from £170,000. The sales office is open daily from 10am to 5pm.

Willis Place
Bransford Road
Worcester
WR2 4EX
Tel: 07834 543 793

Willis Place offers a range of three- and four-bedroom houses priced from £184,950. The sales office is open daily between 10am and 5pm.

For more information, please contact the sales office. Alternatively, please call the sales hotline on 0844 811 9933 open seven days a week from 8am to 9pm or log on to www.barratthomes.co.uk

Barratt West Midlands has been confirmed as meriting the maximum five star official rating from the Home Builders Federation (HBF) for the second year in a row. The news was announced after more than 20,000 new home buyers across the country took part in this year's HBF customer satisfaction survey.



WEBSITE:

www.hickshadley.com



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Blue is the colour says HonestJohn



Super Blue – the fuel efficient Hyundai i10 Blue is exempt from road tax and the London Congestion Charge

THE HYUNDAI i10 Blue is an award-winner – earlier this year it took the Honest John award as the 'Most genuinely economical petrol-engined car'.

The i10 Blue is a recent addition to the popular i10 range and offers customers even greater value for money than ever before.

It emits just 99g/km, so it is exempt from VED and the London Congestion Charge, delivers a combined fuel economy of 67.3mpg and costs from only £9,195.

Dan Harrison, editor of

HonestJohn.co.uk, commented: "Nothing gets our users going quite like fuel economy; when consumption in real life fails to live up to the official published figure, they soon let us know about it."

"So it's good to be able to reward the models which come closest to matching – or improving on the official fuel consumption figure and the Hyundai i10 Blue is one of the best examples of this by genuinely delivering over 60mpg in real-world driving."

Tony Whitehorn, Hyundai Motor UK managing director, said: "Hyundai is

committed to researching and developing cleaner, more efficient powertrains to reduce fuel consumption and CO2 emissions. The Blue drive system – which includes an ultra-efficient 1.0-litre petrol engine and Intelligent Stop & Go technology – ensures that the i10 Blue is one of the cheapest cars to buy and run on sale today."

The www.honestjohn.co.uk website was set-up in 2000 to help consumers with advice on buying, selling and running cars. Since then HonestJohn himself has answered more than 600,000 consumer questions.

Cradley Heath Motor Company Ltd.

www.cradleyheathmotorco.co.uk

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OUR SELECTION

RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 EXPRESSION 06 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, AC, 29k, FSH	£3995
JAGUAR X TYPE 2.5 V6 AWD. 53 Reg, Black, AC, alloys, 58k, FSH	£3995
PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S 56 Reg, 5-door, Black, AC, alloys, 56k, FSH	£4295
PEUGEOT 407 2.0 HDI EXECUTIVE 55 Reg, 4-dr, Black, leather, AC, alloys, sat nav, 68k, FSH	£4495
FORD FOCUS 2.0 GHIA 05 Reg, 5-dr, White, AC, alloys, 30k, FSH	SOLD
RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI SPORT 06 Reg, 5-dr, Blue Metallic, AC, alloys, 41k, FSH	SOLD
CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI VTR+ 06/55 Reg, 5-dr, Blue, blk thr, heated seats, AC, alloys, 58k, FSH	£4995
FORD FOCUS TDCI ZETEC CLIMATE 05 Reg, 5-dr, Blue, AC, Alloys, 61k, FSH	£4995
VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTI SXI 57 Reg, 5-door, Grey Metallic, AC, Alloys, 49k, FSH	£5495
RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCI EXPRESSION 56 Reg, 5-door, Silver, AC, 16k, FSH	£5795
VAUXHALL SIGNUM 1.9 CDTI Auto, 07/56 Reg, Grey Metallic, Sat Nav, Half Leather, AC, Alloys	£5795
VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 EXCLUSIVE 58 Reg, 5-door, Silver, AC, alloys, only 3k, FSH	SOLD
JAGUAR X TYPE 2.0 DIESEL SE 07 Reg, 4-door, Silver, Half Leather, AC, Alloys, 61k, FSH	SOLD
TOYOTA PRIUS T3 07 Reg, 5-door, Black Metallic, AC, Alloys, 55k, FSH	£7495
BMW 130i SE 06 Reg, 5-dr, Black, half leather, AC, alloys, 57k, FSH	£7495
RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE 59 Reg, Grey, AC, alloys, 50k, FSH	£5495
AUDI A8 3.2 SE AUTO QUATTRO 06 Reg, Black, 4-door, 87k, FSH, ring for full spec	£11495

SPORTS

MAZDA MX-5 1.8i 03 Reg, 2-dr, Silver, alloys, only 48k, FSH	£3995
HONDA CIVIC TYPE S 55 Reg, 5-door, Silver, Half Leather, AC, Alloys, 65k, FSH	£4995
MAZDA RX-8 (231) 56 Reg, 2-dr, Grey, Black leather, AC, alloys, only 14k, FSH	£5495
VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 TWINTOP 07 Reg, Beige Metallic, AC, Alloys, 63k, FSH	£5995
VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.9 CDTI SRI 07 (56 Reg), 5-dr, Silver, AC, Alloys, 55k, FSH	£5995
BMW 320 DIESEL SPORT 04 Reg, Le Mans Blue Metallic, AC, Alloys, 6 Speed, 87k, FSH	SOLD
MINI COOPER 06 Reg, Black/White roof, alloys, 53k, FSH	£6295
PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDI GT 07 Reg, 3-dr, Grey, half leather, AC, alloys, 48k, FSH	£6495
MINI ONE Convertible, 55 Reg, Yellow, alloys, 61k, FSH	£6495
MINI COOPER 1.6 PEPPER PACK 06 Reg, Red/White Roof, AC, Alloys, Rear Park Sensors, 30k, FSH	£6995
AUDI A5 3.0 TDi QUATTRO SPORT coupe, 57 Reg, Grey, Black leather, AC, alloys, sat nav plus	£16495

MPV'S

CITROEN PICASSO 1.8SX 53 Reg, 5-door, Blue Metallic, AC, 63k, SH	SOLD
VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 DESIGN 04 Reg, 5-dr, Grey Metallic, AC, 63k, FSH	£3295
CITROEN PICASSO 1.6LX 06 Reg, 5-door, White, 34k, FSH	SOLD
CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 HDI DESIRE 2 08 Reg, 5-door, Grey Metallic, AC, alloys, 64k, FSH, one owner	£5495
VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 EXCLUSIV 08 Reg, 5-dr, Metallic, AC, 18k, FSH, 1 owner	SOLD

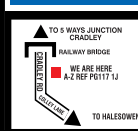
4X4'S

SSANG YONG REXTON 2.7 DIESEL AUTO 05 reg, Blue Metallic, Black leather, AC, alloys, 54k, FSH	£5995
HYUNDAI SANTA FE CDX+ 7 Seats, 57 Reg, Blue Metallic, Leather, AC, Alloys, DVD, 67k, FSH	SOLD

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Motor-Market

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A SELECTION OF OUR STOCK

		Sale Price	Wkly Equiv
07 Reg	BMW 116i SE BMW Silver, Climate Control, Alloys, CD, FSH, 38k	£7995	£46
05 Reg	CITROEN BERLINGO 1.4i FORTE Beige, CD, 5-dr, Low Insurance Group 4, 42k	£2195	£21
06 Reg	CITROEN C3 1.5i DESIRE Blue, air con, alloys, CD, 5-door, low insurance group 2, FSH, 31k	£4195	£28
07 Reg	CITROEN C4 1.6 SX Gold, AC, Alloys, CD, 5-door, FSH, 33k	£4195	£28
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The Bandit would have scored higher for this reviewer if it had fairings

Made for pleasure

By John Griffiths

IT DIDN'T take long for the Bandit to steal my motorcycling heart: Just a few miles with this latest 1,250cc model from the Suzuki gang was enough.

You ride a big, lazy wave of torque from low revs, in the manner of big capacity touring machines at twice the £7,045 price.

Yet despite its size, the new Bandit is wonderfully agile, ready to be flicked left or right like a dedicated sports bike, more with a thought than any physical effort.

It's quick yet comfortable, a mile-muncher that doesn't leave older riders like me with aching wrists and back after a run to the coast. For many, the new Bandit is all the bike you'll ever need. With a little under 100bhp, the Bandit 1250 isn't the most powerful but it is among the most useable.

With its engine tuned for torque at low revs rather than screaming power, a slight twist of the throttle will see you safely past traffic without the need to change down, and help cut your journey time without risking your licence.

A computer-controlled, secondary throttle valve works in conjunction with the rider's hand on the twist grip, providing a smoother flow of power and torque and reducing the tendency to jerkiness familiar with earlier fuel injection systems.

A small technical point, but in everyday use it enhances the expensive tourer feel of this new Suzuki.

The Bandit has a relatively short wheelbase for a large capacity machine and excellent balance makes it a nimble machine too, easy and fun on twisty roads. It feels much tighter and lighter than many of its rivals.

It's comfortable, too, with no aches or pains in these old bones to report even after 200 miles of A and B roads in the saddle. And it returned a respectable 46mpg, too.

Styling

For those with shorter legs, the new seat can be lowered by some 20mm.

This latest version of the ubiquitous Bandit has a number of changes, mainly styling, to give it an edgier, almost futuristic look now de rigueur among the 'street' or naked bike set.

Most noticeable are the black engine, the reshaped headlamp, new rear lights, improved frame and the instruments: a big digital LCD speedo, clock, fuel and gear indicator alongside the traditional analogue rev counter.

The muffler design is new, too, and the exhaust system includes some new technology to cut CO2 emissions.

The six-speed gear box is particularly slick and positive, and the brakes are smoothly powerful, complementing the bike's performance potential. Oddly, though, an anti-lock braking system is only available on the £7,555 SA version.

I would give this bike a nine out of ten score: it might well have been ten had it not been a naked machine. Popular as they are, I'm not really a fan of unfaired machines – I had a 600 Bandit of my own some years ago and quickly added a small after-market fly screen to deflect the wind pressure.

To be fair, this wasn't a real problem on my seaside trip but then I was blessed with fine weather and no long motorway run where unfaired bikes can be tiring.

With the standard £750 costing a very reasonable £7,045, I would certainly invest another £510 for the 1250SA, with its screen and bikini fairing. The Bandit has been a top-selling model in the Suzuki range for some years now, and has evolved to more than keep pace with its competitors. This latest model, with its smooth power and nimble handling shouldn't disappoint either tourer or sports bike aficionados. And its value for money price tag will certainly appeal to both.



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Safety first – for everyone



Honda's technological advances in the field of safety will benefit all road users

THE MOST important focus throughout the development of the new 2012 Civic was safety – not just for the occupants of the car but other road users, such as pedestrians and cyclists.

"Honda has a high tech crash test facility in Tochigi, Japan. There we were able to crash the new Civic into vehicles of different weights and sizes, and at different angles and speeds. We wanted to make sure that we are offering the best 'real world' safety for our customers," said Mitsuru Kariya, Civic development leader.

One of the ways that this is achieved in the new Civic is through the Advanced Compatibility Engineering body structure.

This is a front-mounted polygonal frame that is designed to prevent the cabin becoming deformed by distributing forces away from the passenger compartment.

Warning

"Just as important as technology that protects you in a crash is technology that helps you avoid an accident in the first place" said Kariya. "This is the first time that the CMBS system has been introduced on the Civic in Europe."

Honda's Collision Mitigation Braking System (CMBS) monitors the distance and closing rate between the vehicle and the car directly in front of it, warning the driver when a collision is likely and helping reduce impact when a collision becomes unavoidable. The technology automatically assists with heavy braking and tightens the seatbelts to reduce loading on the driver during an accident.

The new Civic also features sophisticated pedestrian protection features.

"I am very proud that Honda has a leading reputation for pedestrian safety. It's an area in the new Civic that has been constantly worked upon," said Julian Warren, senior safety engineer.

Pedestrian protection features include windscreen wiper pivots designed to break away on impact and energy absorbing front wing mounts.

The last of five films on the development of the new Civic features Honda engineers discussing safety technology. The video can be viewed at www.youtube.com/hondavideo

The new 2012 Civic was unveiled at the Frankfurt Motor Show in September and order books at Honda dealerships are now open.

Cars will arrive in dealerships during January.



The new braking system monitors the distance from the car in front



The Citroën DS5 includes a new generation Lane Departure Warning System and colour driving information

New DS5 is packed with safety features

THE NEW Citroën DS5 has a five-star safety rating in the latest round of Euro NCAP crash tests, along with an impressive 97 per cent score in the Safety Assist category.

The third model in the critically acclaimed DS line, Citroën DS5 boasts dynamic and reassuring road manners, a reinforced body structure and a range of high-performance, protection-enhancing technologies.

Safety features include Electronic Brakeforce Distribution, Emergency Brake Assist, Intelligent Traction Control, an advanced speed-limiter/cruise control system and a cornering light function.

The strong Euro NCAP safety results were achieved through 'Créative Technologie' equipment available exclusively on Citroën DS5, including:

- A new-generation Lane Departure Warning System that 'reads' the road

using a camera built into the upper part of the windscreen, which alerts drivers when they drift off line.

- An automatic high-beam function that, using images processed from the same camera, activates and deactivates the high-beam setting in line with lighting conditions and surrounding traffic.

- A colour head-up display that shows key driving information – such as speed, speed-limiter/cruise control and navigation system settings – in the driver's field of vision.

Innovative

Everyday peace of mind is ensured by innovative services including the Citroën eTouch Emergency & Assistance system, which earned DS5, together with Citroën's other latest models, the Euro NCAP Advanced award. This accolade is given to innova-

tive systems that ensure the highest safety levels, whilst retaining mass market affordability.

The Citroën eTouch system automatically or manually makes emergency or assistance calls, using a built-in SIM card, for precise vehicle localisation and rapid intervention in the event of an accident or if the car has become immobilised.

Linda Jackson, Citroën UK's Managing Director, said: "Attention to safety is paramount in any Citroën model and we're delighted that New DS5 has performed so well in the latest Euro NCAP tests."

"This stunning new car will soon be joining an exciting product line that sets some of the highest standards for safety in their respective classes."

New Citroën DS5 made its European premiere at the Frankfurt Motor Show and goes on sale in the UK early in 2012.

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ered.

01902 689555 or 07896 185279.

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1 bed, garden front, walk
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mins from park, modernised,
Wardstone exchange for 2
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01902 656098 / 07871 906515.

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BMW 320D ES DIESEL 04 reg.
92,000 miles, full MOT June 2012, four
door blue. £4,200.
07950 344629 or 01543 500306.

BMW 320SE Diesel 2002,
average miles, long MOT tax,
vge, new Turbo, leather, good
tyres. £3,450 ono. 07794 886009.

BMW 320SE Diesel 2002,
average miles, long MOT tax,
vge, new Turbo, leather, good
tyres. £3,375 ono. 07794 886009.

BMW ALPINA D3, 2007, black,
FSH, 2008, 50mpg,
immaculate. Bargain £12,950.
01394 073100 / 07950 640523.

NISSAN NAVARA
06 reg, 73,900 miles, black, air
con, fsh, long MOT, tax, alloys,
CD, Blue tooth, mountain top,
very good condition, genuine
reason for sale, general
grabber tyres.
£8,500.
07855 745472.

PEUGEOT 206 1.7, FEVER Special
Edition, 04-reg, 5-dr, MOT May
2012, tax April 2012, 20,290 miles,
£2,500 ono. 07521 122825.

PEUGEOT 206
1.4 Verb, 2006 reg, one owner,
petrol, manual, metallic blue,
full MOT, 59,000 miles, alloys,
E.W. CL, AC, CD player,
excellent condition.
£2,295.
07870 385952

PEUGEOT 206 SE 1.4, 02 reg,
black, A/C, 56k, 9 months MOT,
3 months tax. 01394 258781.

PEUGEOT 206CC, 2003, 50,000
miles, silver, electric windows,
air con, alarm, MOT, central
locking, £2,700, petrol, £3,200
ono. 07855 891107.

PEUGEOT 206LX 1.1, 52 reg,
black, 3 door, 44,000 miles, 11
months MOT, c/v, excellent
condition, good mpg. £2,250.
01394 357096.

PEUGEOT 307 2.0 HDI
39k, 2003, 3dr, silver, 8 months
MOT, immaculate condition
careful owner, forced
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07738 263439

PEUGEOT 407HDI
2.0 DIESEL
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unused spare car.
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stereo/CD, 2 keys, 2.5 years
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1.6GSX
11 reg, tax end of Feb 2012,

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FORD FOCUS 1.6 Zetec, T reg, FSH, 2 family owners, Tax 02/12, Mot 05/12, £700, 07759 078201, Willehall.

FORD FOCUS 1600, 2dr, hatch, (V), silver, low mileage, no tax, long MOT, good condition £1,100, 01952 404999 or 07770 622202.

FORD FOCUS 1.8, 2dr, X reg, MoT, no tax, £900 ono, 07835 588793.

FORD FOCUS DIESEL GHIA, 2000, tax and MoT Feb, 4 new tyres, good condition, £1,200 ono, Telephone 01534 672185.

FORD KA, 2003, 64k mt blue ew, air bag MoT cl, pas, stereo immobiliser, excellent condition, £1,350 ono, 07779 441219.

FORD KA2, 2000, 77k miles, green, e/w, MoT May 2013, pas, tax March, CD, petrol, genuine reason for sale, ideal first car, £550 ono, 07713 145896.

FORD MONDEO ESTATE 1.8 TD, 1998, 131,000 miles, with low bar, Tax and MoT till March, £400, 07944 887516.

FORD PUMA, 2000, 147,000 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, MoT, CL, £385 ono 07947 507653.

HONDA CIVIC 1998, 5dr, estate, petrol, MoT and tax, £W, leather seats, £250, Telephone 07956 927012.

HYUNDAI 120 Classic, 09, silver, 5dr, 22,000 miles, good condition, 3 years manufacturers warranty, £4,800 ono, 07628 708035.

JAGUAR XJ6, Metallic green, 135,595 miles, 12 months MoT, Tax till November, Y reg, just had new brakes / discs / pads, Cream leather, EM, EW, £1,450, Telephone 07773 203875.

MGF 1.8 VVC, 1997, 55,000 miles, fsh, long MoT, tax, very good condition, cream leather, £1,495, 01384 394392.

NISSAN MICRA 1.8S, 2002, 57,000 miles, fsh, 12 months MoT, one owner, pas, 5 months tax, metallic green, air bag, £1,395, 07583 096312.

PEUGEOT 206, Diesel, X reg, 11 months MoT, 4 months Tax, Good runner, Metallic green, 137,000 miles, 0675 07531 478945.

PEUGEOT 206 GTI, 2001, MoT, taxed, fsh, CD, start system, sports exhaust, lovely condition, 2375, 0770 708944.

RELIANT ROBIN used daily, red, no MoT, short tax, £200 ono, new bike forces sale, Call for details 07875 914467, Buyer collects.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 GRANDE, Green, 2001, 49.8K, MoT Feb, tax July, PAS, SH, EW, RCL, good condition, £1,150, 01902 328013.

RENAULT CLIO, W reg, 1.2, green alloys, CD, Cheap tax/insurance, lovely condition inside/out, 11 months MoT, £700, 01384 620719.

RENAULT LAGUNA 1.8 Est, 1997, excellent condition, 3 months tax, 12 months MoT, £700, 01384 352968 or 07811 176564.

ROVER 400 1.4, Full MoT, Taxed, 58,000 miles, V reg, SH, Air Con, red, excellent condition, £650, 07880 088765.

ROVER 400, R reg, 75,000 miles, Tax and MoT till June 2012, 4 new tyres, £550 o.n.o. 07732 977700.

ROVER 400 Saloon, S reg, 55,000 miles, 11 months MoT, Taxed, MoT, Sat Nav, Excellent condition, £650, 01902 725073.

ROVER 1.9 KPM 2.7L 89K, tax and MoT, £600 ono, 01384 392321.

ROVER MGZT 1.8i Saloon, Sep 04, silver grey, 2 owners from new, MoT, Air, Tax Jan, immaculate, about, SH, £1,450, 07950 637678.

SAAB 9.5SE 2000, X reg, central locking, four months MoT, very clean and tidy, full leather, £750, 07753 286601.

SABAT FORESTER S turbo, Y reg, MoT / taxed till May 2012, all electric, aircon, sunroof, excellent, £1,995 ono, 07949 223124.

TOYOTA AVENTIS 1985, VVTi, 2002 reg, MoT, 84,000 miles, AC, Sat Nav, silver, good condition, £1,000, 01902 738587.

TOYOTA COROLLA 1.6 GLS, 98 reg, 10 months MoT, 98K, full electric, Mica blue, Very good condition, £550 ono, 01922 410507.

TOYOTA MR2 T BAR, J reg, black, 2 litre Turbo on Sorn, MoT May 12, alloys, s/steel exhaust, Ricardo seats, extra s, excellent condition, dry stored, must be seen, £3,000 ono, 07717 295019, Wombourne.

TOYOTA RAV4 GX, 3dr, auto Estate, 4wd, W reg, 10 months MoT, tax Dec, SR, all electric, alloys, SH, any trial, immaculate, £1,500 ono, 01562 910081 / 07773 592470.

TOYOTA STARLET 1.3, 3dr, 1997, low mileage, long MoT and taxed, PAS, alloys, excellent condition, £490, 01902 685877.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6LS Tax, MoT, 10 reg, EW, CL, PAS, FSH, excellent condition, £875 ono, 07411 958454.

VAUXHALL CORSA Diesel Van 1.9, white, 51 plate, MoT/tax, very tidy, £550, 01562 740422 / 07871 876646.

VAUXHALL TIGRA 1.6 R reg, very good condition, tax and MoT January, lady owner, £550 ono, 01384 343339.

VAUXHALL VECTRA LS DTi, 16v, 52 plate, CD, EW, diesel, MoT till 06/12, Excellent condition, £1,499, 07745 154743.

VOLKSWAGEN SHARAN, silver, W reg, taxed, MoT d April, seven seater, two owners, stereo, £725, 07880 982193, Wolverhampton.

VW BORA SE, 1999, V reg, petrol, 70K, silver, electric, air con, MoT, tax, central locking, excellent, £1,250 ono, 01952 248464.

LDV 15 seater minibus, 2007, diesel, 63k miles, 7 months MoT, two months tax, very good condition, £6,000 o.n.o. 07790 252753.

VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB 2008, fsh, immaculate condition, six months tax, five months MoT, high miles, £3,750 ono, 01543 878729 or 07768 913434.

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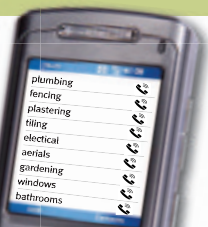
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sport

Stalwart Reg is handed honour

A founding member of a Black Country hockey club has been honoured at a special ceremony. Reg Rogers of Old Halesonians Hockey Club, was presented with the Sporting Champion Award by John Millar of Dudley Council at the ceremony.

Reg was given the prestigious award for his prolonged service to the club.

Mr Rogers was a founding member of the club which was established in 1963.

He has volunteered at every role within the club and is currently the Club Treasurer. He also acts as the League Secretary for the Worcestershire Area.



Hockey stalwart Reg Rogers has been honoured

Weekend of mixed fortunes for the boys and girls of the Hawks

Girls League

Trysull 1 Halas Hawks 1

The U12 North drew 1-1 with Trysull, their goal coming from Chelsea Tague.

Withymoor Colts 2 Halas Hawks 0

A great first half performance from the U16 girls saw them take the game to the top of the table, Withymoor, going very close on several occasions but failing to find the back of the net.

The second half was a more even affair and saw Withymoor earn themselves a 2-0 win. Player of the match was Rebecca Ingram.

Boys League

Halas Hawks West 2 Penn Colts West 3

The U9s West took a deserved the lead in this game through man of the match, Calum Steatham but with a weakened side, they couldn't hold on to the lead and went down 3-2. Their second goal came from Anthony Andreou.

Halas Hawks East 6 Hasbury 3

A poor start saw the U9s East trailing 2-1 at half time and heading for defeat against a lively Hasbury side. An early second half goal saw Hasbury go into a deserved 3-1 lead and

coasting to a win, but this seemed to kick start a Halas revival and with everything to do the lads dug deep to score five stunning late goals to win 6-3. Goals came from Jack Whitehouse (2), Jack Plant (2), Tommy Swancott and Harry Beasley.

Halas Hawks East 1 Wordsley North 4

The U10s East's unbeaten start to the season came to an abrupt end with their worst performance of the season. Halas started brightly but ended up two down before pulling one back before half time from Louie Jones. The second half performance

saw no improvement and Wordsley ran out worthy 4-1 winners. The man of the match award went to Oliver Miller for his tireless hard work up front.

Withymoor Colts 3 Halas Hawks 2

The U14s lost to Withymoor Colts 3-2 with their goals coming from Nick Bennett and Adam Bowen.

Halesowen Town Colts 0 Halas Hawks 2

The U14s took on top of the table, Halesowen Town Colts and played some great football coming close to scoring a couple of times in the first half. The second half saw the same

level of play from both teams before Halas broke the deadlock with a great goal by Liam Holmes.

Halas continued to keep up the pressure and made it 2-0 through a clinical finish from Adam Higginson to mark his first goal for the club. Man of the match was midfielder Jack Bagley.

Halas Hawks 1 Sedgley Scorpions 0

The U17s game against Sedgley Scorpions was a scrappy game for both sides, but the stalemate was broken by a deserved second half winner from Joe Powell.

SWIFT GOALS SEE THE YELTZ ADVANCE

HALESOWEN TOWN 3 WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS 1

Birmingham Senior Cup 1st Round

Three goals in an eight minute spell late in the second half guided Halesowen into the second round of the Birmingham Senior Cup.

Wolves included first team experienced Ashley Hemmings and Northern Ireland international John Gorman but a dull first half saw just one decent chance from each side.

In the 13th minute Halesowen's Naveed Arshad latched onto a through-ball but goalkeeper Aaron McCarey expertly turned it away.

Home goalkeeper Paul Evans then denied Jake Cassidy from Gorman's 29th minutes.

The visitors enjoyed the better of early play in the second period with influential Anthony Forde striking the angle of the far post and crossbar after 58 minutes before the Yeltz killed the game with three quick-fire goals.

Impressive

Half-time substitute Jon Aldridge marked an impressive debut to put Halesowen ahead in the 67th minute by smashing a half-volley into the roof of the net from 18 yards, after meeting Anthony Bruce's long ball.

Five minutes later defender Mark Smith planted a free header past McCarey from Gavin Saunders' free-kick.

Halesowen made it 3-0 in the 75th minute when Aldridge's fierce drive was beaten away by McCarey, but Arshad laid off the rebound for Lee Chilton to stroke into the corner of the net.

In the final minutes Forde's low drive struck the post and substitute Liam McAlinden brought another fine save from Evans before Wolves were finally rewarded with an 88th minute consolation goal when Zele Ismail's shot took a strong deflection to beat Evans.

Halesowen Town: Evans; Mason, Caines, Folkes, Smith, McGrath, Bruce, Saunders (c), Arshad, Nisbett (Aldridge 45), Chilton, Unused, Subs: Godwin, Gueyes, Hinds, Coward.

Wolves: McCarey; Shepherd (Bashford 81), Reckord (c), Price, Ihiekwe, Ebanks-Landell, Ismail, Forde, Cassidy, Hemmings, Gorman (McAlinden 60). Unused Subs: Platt, Whittall

Referee: N. Hobbs (Birmingham)

Attendance: 343

Nine-man Tividale give polished Vase performance

TIVIDALE 4 WESTFIELDS 1

Tividale progressed to the second round of the FA Vase with a tremendous performance to demolish Midland Alliance leaders Westfield despite being reduced to nine men. It was the visitors who had the first attempt on goal when the lively Richard Kear shot over the Tividale bar from 20 yards.

The breakthrough came on 10 minutes when Brett Clark was sent tumbling to the ground by visiting goalkeeper Jamie Moore. Chris Russell stepped up to convert the spot-kick. Four minutes later Tividale doubled their lead when the visitors failed to clear one of several set-pieces that had resulted from some nasty challenges.

Delight

The ball fell to full-back Joel Kettle and he acrobatically belted the ball into the net, much to his and his team-mates' delight.

On 20 minutes Clark firmly planted a great header past Moore from six yards, only for the linesman to raise his flag for offside.

A move in the 25th minute involving several players left Russell in a one-on-one against the visitors' goalkeeper but he squared the ball when a shot could have brought a goal and the ball was hacked clear.

Ten minutes later the home side got the third goal that they had threatened for some time when Lee Chilton burst into the box and tested Moore with a rasping drive which the



Defender Joel Kettle smashes home Tividale's second goal Pictures: Ian Peters

keeper beat out, but only to the same player, who tapped the ball into the empty net as the goalkeeper lay prostrate on the floor. In the 39th minute defender Mark Turton was dismissed after a fracas.

The game was virtually settled in the 61st minute when a poor back pass was pounced on by Russell and he slotted home.

Tividale were reduced to nine men just six

minutes later when the powerful Duncan Edwards was given a straight red card by referee Allsop after what seemed an innocuous tackle.

The resulting free-kick led to a penalty for the visitors after the ball was handled in the box and Robbins pulled on back.

Tividale travel to Colehill Town on Saturday.

Heathens hero Newman at the presentation party

Heathens hero Kyle Newman has confirmed his appearance at the club's end of season presentation party next week.

Dorset-based Newman was originally due to fly out to Australia with Heathens colleagues Ashley Morris and Tom Perry this weekend but suffered injuries when riding for Premier League Newcastle a fortnight ago which scuppered his plans. Now Newman will be at Cradley Heath Liberal Club next Friday, November 4, for the sold out event.

Said Newman: "I've really enjoyed my time with Dudley and the fans are amazing. I was taught the 'Ommer Um' phrase pretty quickly!" Meanwhile Heathens fans have an opportunity to get their hands on rare items at the event. An auction will take place and a 2011 Heathens racejacket, signed by the squad, is one of the items. Kyle Newman's racejacket front which was cut off after his crash at the Isle of Wight has been signed and framed and will also be up for grabs along with two signed Greg Hancock prints. The event, presented by Heathens and Wolves presenter Ian 'Porky' Jones, is sold out.

Voting for the club's rider of the year closes at midnight on Monday, October 31 via the club website www.dudleyheathens.co.uk Chairman Pearson and boss Will Porttinger will be taking questions from fans at Cradley Heath Liberal Club on Friday, November 25, at the winter talk-in. Admission is £2 on the door.

Last-gasp error denies colts a draw at home

Old Halesonians Colts 18

Whitchurch Colts 23

Old Halesonians hosted Whitchurch for only their second home game of the season.

Whitchurch caught Old Hales napping at the start and scored an early try, which was unconverted. From the restart Old Hales forced Whitchurch to concede a penalty which Billy Taylor converted. Whitchurch who scored next with another unconverted try. Old Hales played for territory and after 25 minutes Liam Kendrick scored a try with Billy Taylor converting.

Old Hales started the second half brightly and forced Whitchurch to concede a penalty, with Billy Taylor kicking successfully. Old Hales failed to field the

restart cleanly, and Whitchurch took full advantage of an error to level the scores. Whitchurch then quickly worked the ball wide, scoring a try following some excellent interplay.

Old Hales then moved the ball up field, but following an altercation, the referee sent Orie Shaw off for 10 minutes.

Old Hales showed true determination to keep in the game and this sustained effort was rewarded with a try for Shaw. Billy Taylor could not add the extras. Whitchurch attacked from the restart but knocked on.

Old Hales attacked but got turned over at the breakdown, Whitchurch taking full advantage of the Old Hales error to score a try at the death.

Coventry City & University 1 OHHC 1st XI 4

Old Halesonians 1st XI bounced from last week's defeat with a 4-1 victory over Coventry City & University. Hales learned from the recent loss and played some excellent hockey on their visit to Coventry.

Captain Doug Houghton opened the scoring early in the game when he slapped the ball into the goal from a precision cross from Harry Hughes.

The hours of practice finally paid off for Hales, with Paul Woodall deflecting a penalty corner ball into the goal past the helpless Coventry defence.

Houghton turned provider for the third goal as Hales continued to tear the Coventry defence apart.

Houghton found Graham Knight in the D, who had room to compose himself and flick the ball over the diving Coventry keeper. Another well executed passing move, ended with Man of the match Tom Bulteel squaring the ball to Harry Hughes, who had no trouble tapping the ball into an empty net.

Coventry grabbed a consolation goal when their attacker was first to react following a penalty corner save from GK James Jones.

OHHC 1st XI 5 North Notts 0

Old Hales bagged their second win of the weekend when they beat North Notts 5-0 in Round 2 of the England Hockey Trophy. Man of the match Chris Watley opened the scoring as he chipped a ball over the keeper. Hales doubled their lead before half time when Tom Durnford found Bulteel at the post.

In the second half, Bulteel scored his second of the game when he found himself with an open goal. Bulteel powered the ball into the top corner with pure conviction.

Paul Woodall put his name on the score sheet after he drag-flicked the ball low past the Notts GK following a short corner, to make it 4-0. Graham Knight made it five with a cheeky finish.

OHHC 2nds 3 Shrewsbury 3

Hales found themselves two down early on but managed to pull one back through Marc Herickx.

However, an error led to Shrews doubling their lead. The introduction of Tom Bolton added another edge to Hales and Nathan Kelly pulled one back before the break. In the second period, Adam Hill's reverse hit 15 minutes from time somehow found its way through the Shrews' keeper.

OHHC 3rds 10 Stone 0

The OHHC 3rds began their home form where they left off last season with a 10-0 victory, this time against newly promoted Stone. The side still without several key players took the lead in the opening minutes and from then took complete control. Goals came from Damian Shackleton (3), Nic Penn (3) Steve Butler (2), Deck Glaze and Dan Millichap.

Stourport 5 OHHC 4ths 1

Old Halesonians 4ths suffered a 5-1 defeat against local rivals Stourport. Hales never got off the starting blocks and struggled against a well-organised and drilled Stourport side.

Old Silhillians 2 OHHC 5ths 0

Despite having the majority of possession, Old Halesonians struggled to turn chances into goals. Old Silhillians took their chances well, and Hales were unable to get back into the game.

OHHC Ladies 2 Worcester 0

Old Halesonians Ladies beat Worcester 2-0 after a great performance. The whole team gelled well together and were able to punish the Worcester side, to take away three points.

The Halesowen Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Shropshire. Thursday, October 27, 2011.

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tage, especially in light of the current economic climate".

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